

Knot Guide

KNOTS THAT CATCH FISH

FLY TO TIPPET Use these to tie your fly to the end of your tippet.

DAVY KNOT BEGINNER RECOMMENDED

4 simple steps. Ties in under 5 seconds. Small profile, minimal fluorocarbon waste. The easiest knot to learn for beginners of all ages.

STEP 1	Pass the tippet through the hook eye from front to back. Pull 4 inches of tag end through.
STEP 2	Cross the tag end OVER the standing line toward you, forming one small loop.
STEP 3	Pass the tag end through that loop once - from front to back.
STEP 4	Wet the knot. Pinch the fly and pull the standing line firmly to cinch. Leave 1/4 inch tag end. Trim.

KEY RULE: Always leave a 1/4 inch tag end. It prevents the knot from slipping under load. Always wet before tightening - a dry knot loses up to 30% of its strength. For extra holding power, tie a "Double Davy": make a second pass through the loop before you cinch.

IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT CLASSIC STANDARD

5 steps. The most widely used fly knot in the world. Favored in the George Harvey / Joe Humphreys tradition. Reliable with monofilament and fluorocarbon.

STEP 1	Pass the tippet through the hook eye. Pull 5-6 inches of tag end through.
STEP 2	Hold the fly and wrap the tag end around the standing line 5 times (4-5 wraps for heavier tippet).
STEP 3	Pass the tag end back through the small loop nearest the hook eye.
STEP 4	Now pass the tag end through the large loop you just created.

STEP 5	Wet the knot. Pull the tag end and standing line simultaneously to tighten. Trim tag end close.
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KEY RULE: 5 wraps for 4X and lighter tippet. 4 wraps for 3X and heavier. Always wet. Never pull just the tag end - pull both ends together.

WHICH ONE DO I USE? Either works. Learn the Davy Knot first - it is faster and simpler. Add the Improved Clinch as you advance.

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JOINING TWO LINES Use these to connect tippet to leader, or to add a new section of tippet.

DOUBLE SURGEON'S KNOT EASIEST JOIN KNOT

4 steps. Works even when the two lines are different diameters - ideal for connecting a finer tippet to a heavier leader. Bulkier than the blood knot but much easier to tie.

STEP 1	Lay the leader and tippet alongside each other, overlapping 4-6 inches, running opposite directions.
STEP 2	Hold both lines together as one. Tie a simple overhand knot (both lines together).
STEP 3	Before pulling tight, pass BOTH tag ends through the loop one more time.
STEP 4	Wet the knot. Pull all four ends simultaneously - two standing lines and two tag ends. Trim both tags.

KEY RULE: Pull all four ends at the same time and evenly. Pulling only the standing lines causes the knot to roll, not stack - and it will fail.

BLOOD KNOT TRADITIONAL STANDARD

6 steps. The classic knot for joining two lines of similar diameter. Lower profile than the surgeon's knot - flows through the guides smoothly. Standard in the George Harvey tradition. Takes more practice but rewards you with a cleaner connection.

STEP 1	Overlap the two lines by 6 inches, running in opposite directions. Pinch the center where they cross.
STEP 2	Wrap the left line around the right line 5 times. Bring the end back and hold it at the

	center cross.
STEP 3	Wrap the right line around the left line 5 times in the OPPOSITE direction. Bring its end back to center.
STEP 4	Both tag ends should now be pointing in opposite directions through the center gap.
STEP 5	Pass both tag ends through the center opening - each going opposite directions through the same gap.
STEP 6	Wet thoroughly. Pull both standing lines slowly and evenly outward. The wraps will stack neatly. Trim tags.
KEY RULE: Both lines must be similar in diameter (within one X size) or the knot will slip. Wet it thoroughly before tightening. Cinch slowly and evenly - rushing makes it twist.	

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LOOP CONNECTION Use this to create a loop at the leader butt for loop-to-loop fly line connection.

PERFECTION LOOP LOOP-TO-LOOP CONNECTION			
4 steps. Tied at the butt end of your leader. Connects to the welded loop on your fly line. When your leader needs replacing, simply unclip and attach a new one in seconds.			
STEP 1		Form a loop with the leader butt - bring the line back over itself.	
STEP 2		Form a second loop in FRONT of the first, holding both with your fingers.	
STEP 3		Pass a bight of the line between the two loops and pull it through.	
STEP 4		Pull the front loop through. Wet and tighten by pulling the standing line and the new loop. Trim.	
KEY RULE: The loop must lie in-line with the leader - if it sits at an angle, redo it. A twisted perfection loop causes the leader to hinge at the connection and kills a natural drift.			
KNOT	USE IT FOR	DIFFICULTY	STEPS

Davy Knot	Fly to tippet	Beginner	4
Improved Clinch	Fly to tippet	Intermediate	5
Double Surgeon's	Joining two lines	Beginner	4
Blood Knot	Joining two lines (same diameter)	Intermediate	6
Perfection Loop	Loop at leader butt	Intermediate	4

TIPPET SIZE TO FLY SIZE - QUICK REFERENCE

FLY SIZE	TIPPET	BREAKING STRENGTH	NOTES
#6-8	1X	10 lb	Streamers, big nymphs
#10-12	2X	8 lb	Larger nymphs
#14	3X	6 lb	Standard nymphs
#16	4X	5 lb	Most dry flies - go-to size
#18	5X	4 lb	Small dry flies
#20-22	6X	3 lb	Midge patterns
#24+	7X	2 lb	Ultra-fine midge

"We never stop learning. The good Lord made it that way." - Joe Humphreys