Knot Guide

KNOTS THAT CATCH FISH

Your tier's knot set = the Knot Tier badge. Minnow (6-10): Davy Knot + Double Surgeon's. Brook Trout (11-13): those two plus Improved Clinch + Perfection Loop. Brown Trout (14-17): all five (adds the Blood Knot). Tie each one three times in a row, unassisted, and a Harvey Leader initials your Knot Mastery Card. Time yourself against your own best, never against the kid next to you.

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 tippet 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 wraps for 3X and heavier).
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 1	**Pass the tippet through the hook eye. Pull 5-6 inches of tag end through.**
STEP 5	Wet the knot. Pull the tag end and standing line simultaneously to tighten. Trim tag end close.

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.

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 1	**Overlap the two lines by 6 inches, running in opposite directions. Pinch the center where they 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.

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

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