

# Eagle Creek Conservation Club

## Youth Fishing Clinic

### TYING A GOOD FISHING KNOT

Fishing line is very strong, yet if you tie a bad knot its strength is meaningless. That is why you need to spend the time learning a few good knots or you will be spending a lot of money on lures.

The knots discussed on the following pages are the most common and useful. There are numerous other fishing knots, but if you learn these you should stay out of trouble.



### WHY DO FISHING KNOTS FAIL?

The biggest problem is that they just come loose. The second problem is that the knot can reduce the effective strength of the line. For example, though you may be fishing with 10-pound test line, a bad knot may test out at only five pounds — possibly less.

Remember, a knot is nothing more than line that is twisted, crisscrossed and joined with the hard surfaces of hooks, lures, swivels and other tackle. Even with a good knot, this places a great deal of stress on the line due to sharp bends. The line may actually cut into itself if it is under enough pressure.

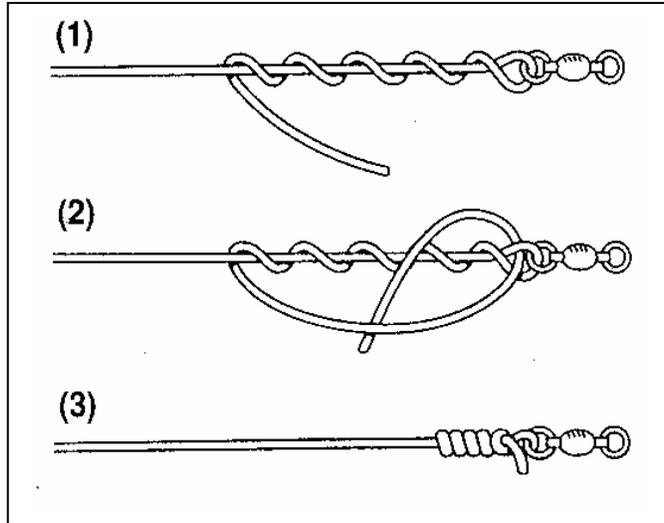
The goal for a good knot is to maintain close to 100 percent of the test strength of the line you're using. There are two basic steps to accomplish this. The first step in this process is to choose the best knot for the application. The second step is to tie the knot properly.

### KNOT TYING TIPS

- **Wet the knot.** This is especially critical as you draw the knot tight. A little bit of water or saliva helps lubricate the line, preventing abrasion and making it easier to gather and tighten the knot.
- **Make sure the knot** is tight. A loosely gathered knot can come unraveled — or it may start to slip under pressure. Slippage can lead to rapid knot failure.
- **Trim the knot** carefully. As you trim the loose line after finishing the knot, don't nick or scrape the actual knot or main line. Even a minor nick seriously weakens a knot. **Check knots frequently.** Inspect your line and knots whenever you reel in. If there's any damage, abrasion or doubt, cut the problem off and re-tie.
- **Learn a few knots very well.** Don't try to learn every fishing knot ever invented. There are hundreds. It's better to be proficient with six knots than to be a "fumble-fingers" with twenty.
- **Practice makes perfect.** Spend time at home practicing your knot-tying skills. Inspect and test each knot after you finish. Your goal should be a perfectly tied knot every time.

There are basically 3 classes of knots for fishing, namely line-to-tackle knots, line-to-line knots and loop knots. If you can master one out of each of these categories you will be in great shape.

### Line-to-Tackle Knots



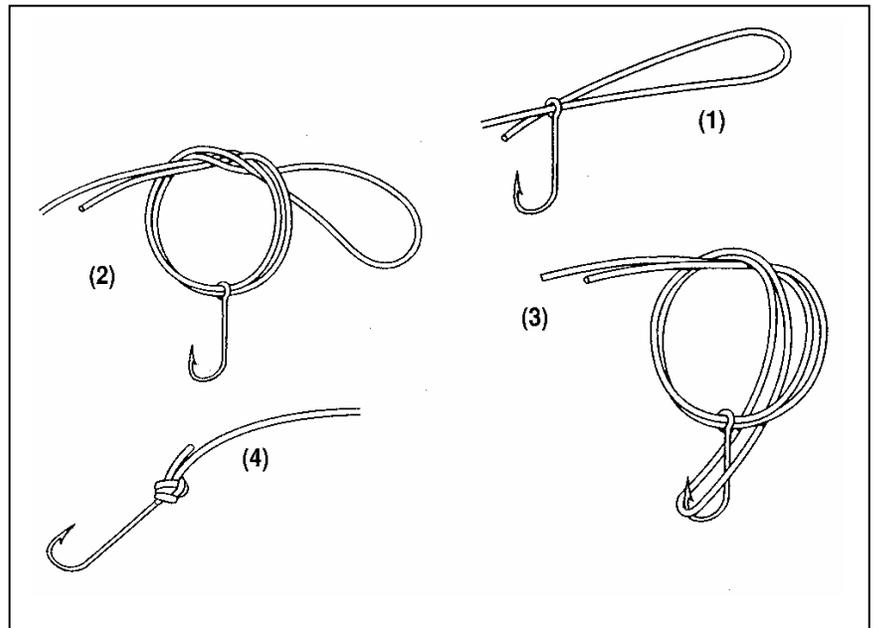
**Improved Clinch Knot:** This is probably the most common of all fishing knots and is easy to tie (especially for 20 lb test or less).

1. Pull the line through the eye of the tackle and double back. Make 5 turns around the standing line.
2. While holding the coils, pull the end through the loop closest to the eye, and then back through the big loop that was just created.
3. Slide the knot tight and trim the end of the line

### Palomar Knot

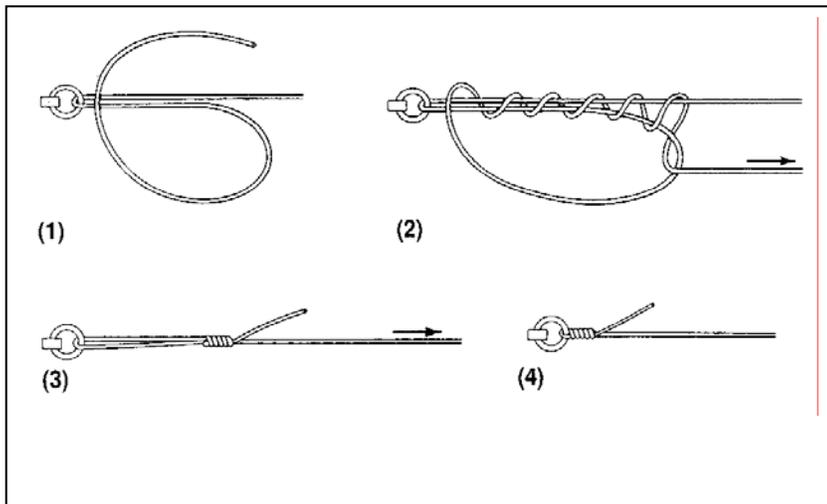
This is another very strong and easy to tie knot. It is not recommended for very large lures.

1. Double about 6 inches of line and pass it through the eye of the tackle.
2. Tie an overhand knot.
3. Pass the hook, lure or swivel through the loop.
4. Tighten the knot and trim the end. Make sure the two lines in the eye are parallel. If they are crossed, it will reduce the strength of the knot.



## Uni-Knot

This is a versatile knot that can also be tied to form an end loop.

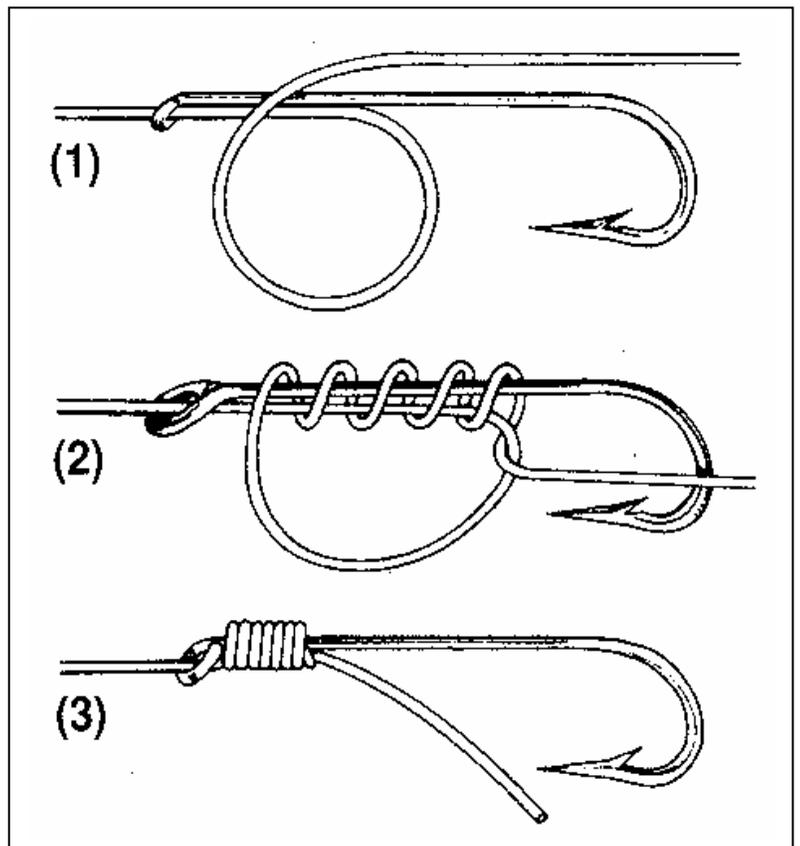


1. Run 6 inches of line through the eye and fold back to make 2 parallel lines.
2. Bring the free end back towards the eye and make 6 spiral wraps around the 2 parallel lines.
3. Snug the knot. If you want to leave a loop, hold the knot at the point where you want it while you pull on the standing line.
4. If you do not want a loop, slide the knot to the eye. Trim the free end.

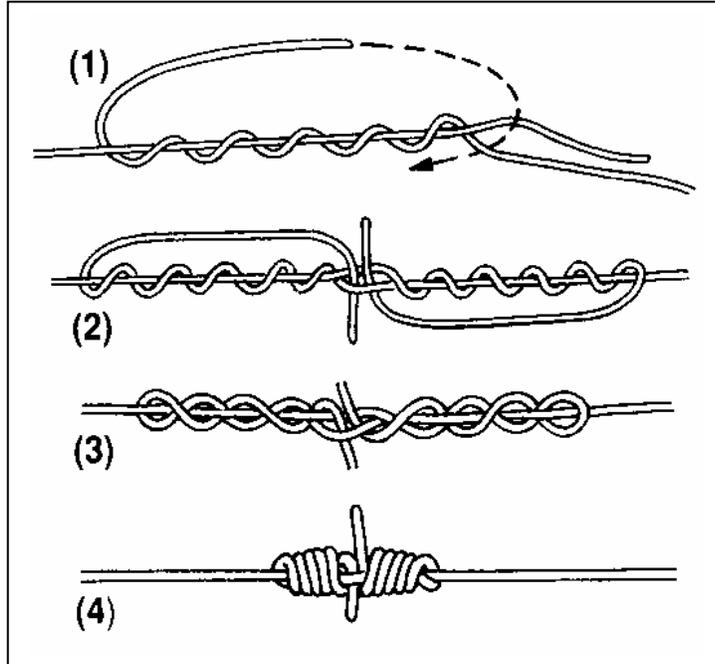
## Snelling a Hook

“Snelling” is essentially a Uni-Knot tied around a hook shank. Where a hook has an offset eye, this allows for an efficient “straight” pull of the hook’s point.

1. Thread the line through the hook eye about 6 inches. Form a loop and hold it against the shank of the hook.
2. Make 5 to 6 turns through the loop and around the hook shank.
3. Close the knot and tighten by pulling on the standing line in one direction and the hook in the other. Trim the free end.



## Line-to-Line Knots



### Blood Knot

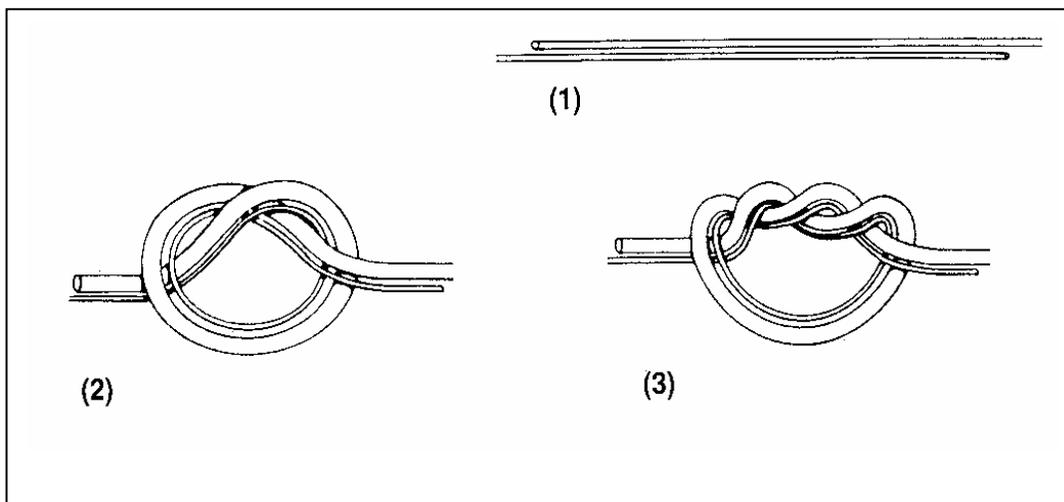
This is one of the best knots for joining two lines of similar diameter, yet it is also a little tricky.

1. Overlap the two parallel lines by 12 inches total. Take 5 wraps on one side and pull the end back through between the two strands.
2. Repeat on the other side, pulling the other end through the strands in the opposite direction.
3. Pull the two free ends slowly to gather the knot.
4. Once gathered neatly, pull the standing line to tighten the knot. Trim the free ends

### Surgeon's Knot

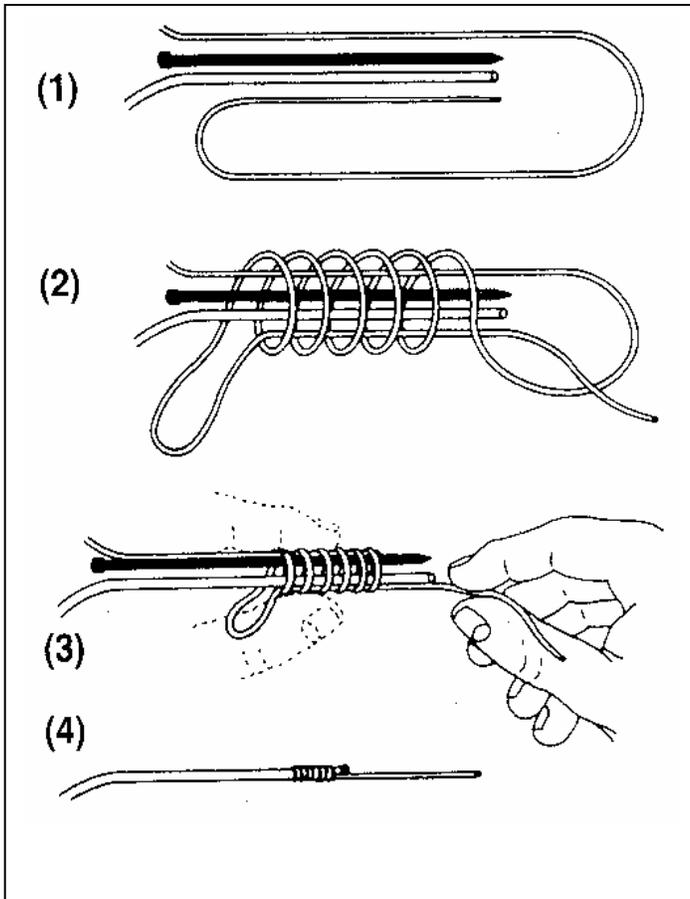
This knot is best for joining a heavy line to a light line (i.e. lines with unequal diameters).

1. Lay 6 to 8 inches of the two lines parallel and overlapping
2. Using the two lines, tie an overhand knot (Remember to pass the end of the line and the entire leader through the loop twice).
3. Proceed to tie a second overhand knot
4. Pull both lines in opposite directions to gather and tighten the knot. Trim free ends.



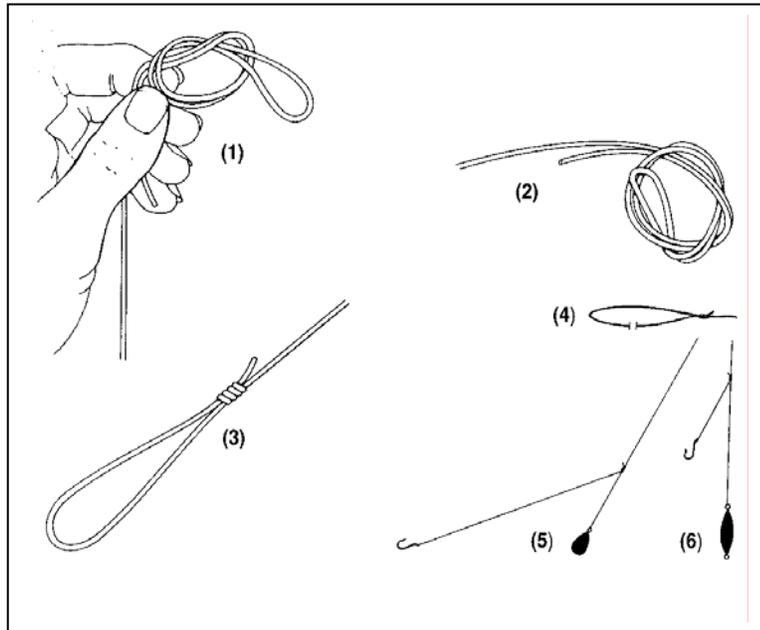
## Nail Knot

This knot is designed for splicing monofilament leader to a fly line. As the name implies, a nail is needed to tie the knot, although a toothpick or a straw can also be used.



1. Lay 8 to 10 inches of leader and fly line overlapping and parallel to each other, with a 6-penny nail in between.
2. Using the leader line, loop up to 8 coils back around the fly line, the nail, and the leader. Using the nail as a guide, run the leader line back under the coils.
3. Hold the loosely-gathered knot with one hand, as you withdraw the nail with the other hand.
4. Pull on both ends of the leader line to tighten the knot. Trim the free ends of the leader and the fly line.

## Loop Knots



### Surgeon's End Loop

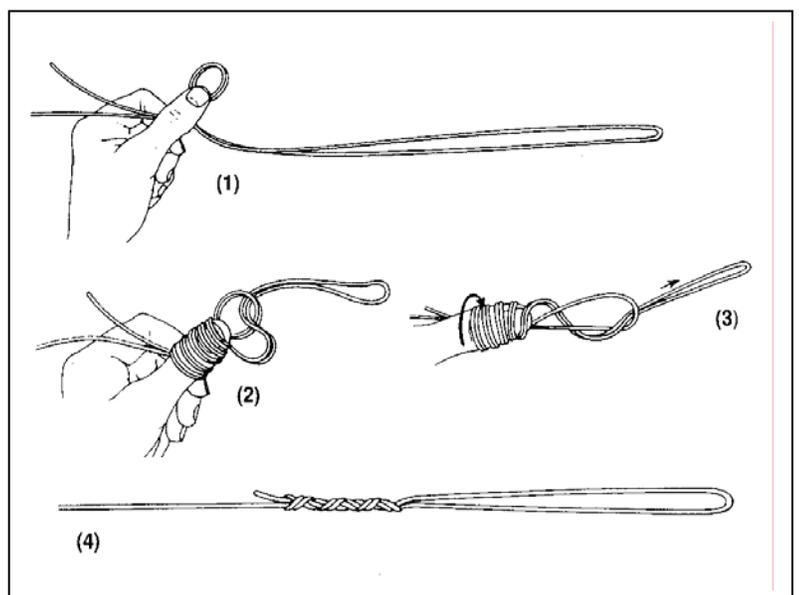
This is one of the simplest and quickest ways of creating double lines for splicing to heavy leader material or for tying directly to terminal tackle.

1. Double the end of the main line to form a loop. The amount you double determines the size of the loop. Tie an overhand knot.
2. With the loop still open, bring the double line through again.
3. Pull the standing line and loop in opposite directions to gather and tighten the knot. Trim the free end.
4. Once this knot is tied, create a dropper by snipping the loop.
5. For drift fishing, use the shorter of the two strands for a hook and the other for the weight.
6. For vertical situations, use the shorter strand for the hook and the longer one for the weight.

## Spider Hitch

This is another way to create a loop on a line, although is a little complicated.

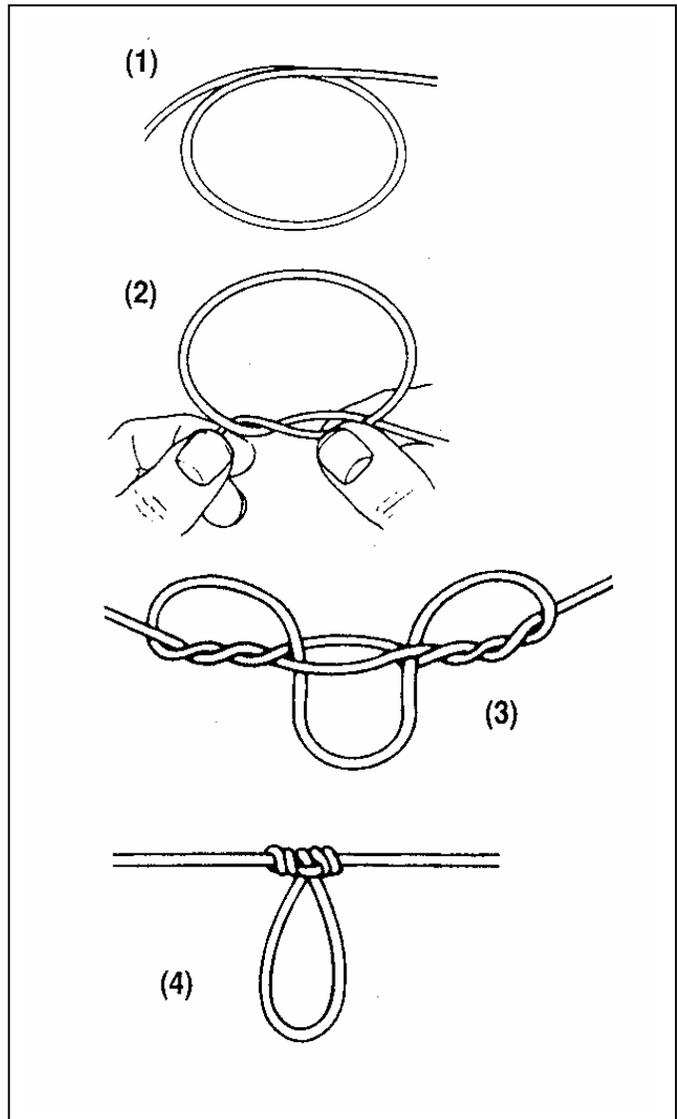
1. Double the end of the main line and bring the end of the double line around to form a small loop of double line. Hold it between your thumb and index finger.
2. Wrap the larger double line loop 4 to 5 times around your thumb and the small loop.
3. Pull the remainder of the larger loop through the smaller loop, so wraps will unwind off of your thumb.
4. Hold the main line and free end while you pull the double line to gather and tighten the knot. Trim the free end.



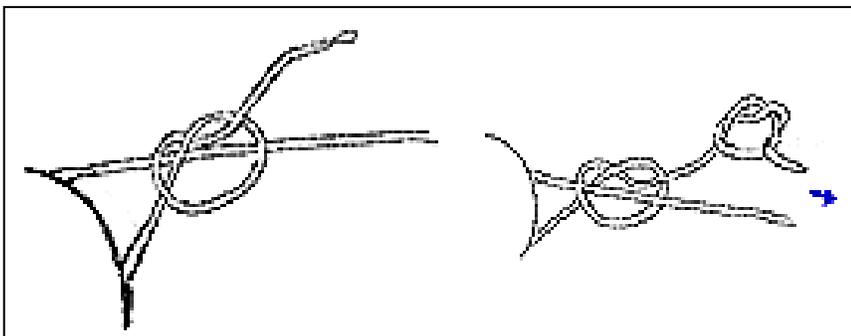
## Dropper Loop

This is a good knot for creating one or more loops in a leader (or main line) for attaching hooks, jigs, or a sinker.

1. Form a loop to the size you desire.
2. Twist the loop around the main line 8 times.
3. Reach through the center of the twists and pull the loop through.
4. Hold the loop with your teeth (be careful not to nick the line) while you pull on both ends of the main line to tighten the knot.



Arbor Knot – This is a great knot for tying a line to a reel.



1. Run the line around the spool. Tie an overhand knot near the tip of the line.
2. Take the end of the line and tie an overhand knot to the main line.
3. Tighten the knot at the end of the line and then pull the line tight around the spool

## **References**

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<http://www.realknots.com/>