

The Serious Tackle Box

With Chris Gonzales

*Experienced Fishing Advice To
Make Fishing Great Again*



The San Diego Jam

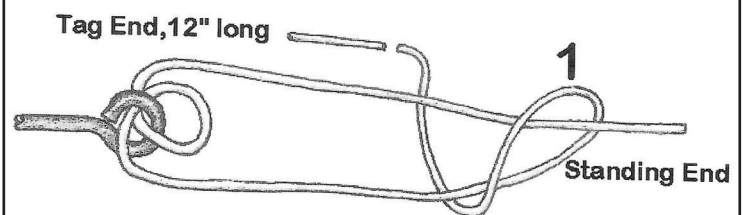
The San Diego Jam has nothing to do with jazz or music unless a bent rod, coupled together with your screaming, slipping reel drag is music to your ears. The San Diego part in this picture is the knot that was brought to the forefront by tuna fishermen on those long-range, multi-day trips out of that city. The San Diego Jam knot is a mono connection that's a big part of being able to confidently put the pressure on a big fish who's generating all of that bending, screaming, and slipping that's going on.

This is a knot that most fishermen have probably heard of but have not seen or tried. The San Diego Jam is one of those knots that should be a part of your arsenal of a few knots that will hold in a "take'em or break'em" situation. It's a connection that's below the bottom of the worry scale when tied correctly, be it mono to hook, lure or reel spool arbor. This is about as strong a knotted mono connection that you can make in those areas of your fishing tackle.

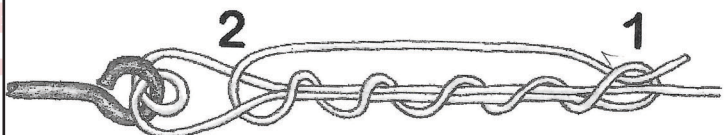
When I tie the San Diego Jam with 50# or less mono, I go through the hook or lure's eye twice, as shown in the illustration's top view. With 60--100# mono, I go through the eye once. I don't believe a great benefit is gained with the heavier monos and it's much harder to hold the wraps at the eye in an uncrossed position when tightening. I generally use 10 turns around the doubled section when using 30-50# mono and 8 turns with 60-100#. The middle view in the illustration shows four turns, but that was done merely to make illustrating it a bit easier.

To tie the San Diego Jam, go through the hook eye and pull 12-15" of the tag end through it. Now, start to loop the mono over itself about 4-5" away from the eye and pinch it between your right thumb and forefinger at the "1" as shown at the top of the illustration. Then start the wraps around the doubled section. Going to the illustration's middle view as a guide, carefully hold the hook with the third and fourth fingers of your left hand. While still holding with your right hand at "1", make your wraps around the doubled section using your left thumb, first and second fingers. Next, pass the tag end through the opening at the bottom of the wraps as shown in "2". Now pass the tag end through the loop at "1" that has formed at your right hand's grip. Note that the tag and standing end come out on the same side of this loop. At this point, your knot will appear as shown in the middle view, except for the possibility that you used one pass of the mono through the hook's eye as opposed to the two shown.

The San Diego Jam



Completed wraps and the tag end thru the loop at "1". Note that the tag and standing ends pass thru the same side of the eye. See the text for wrapping & tightening procedure.



San Diego Jam, showing proper lay of wraps at hook eye when completed.



Chris Gonzales
Owner - Serious Tackle

To tighten the San Diego Jam, after moistening it with saliva, anchor the hook to a stationary object. "Stationary object" can be a piece of heavy cord loop or a big snap or swivel that's connected to a table, boat rail, etc. all strong enough to not break or move when under the pull load you're going to put on it with the tightening process. It's always safest to use gloved hands when tightening, especially with heavier monos. The tightening process I use is to first pull slowly

on the standing end to get the wraps close to the hook eye, and then snug the tag end while still maintaining a slight amount of tension on the standing end. At this point, it's a matter of alternating the pulls on the standing and the tag ends, getting progressively tighter until the wraps are set tight. I do these alternating pulls while maintaining the pressure on both with the tag end in one hand and the standing end in the other. The last pull should be on the standing end. When tight, clip the tag end to about 1/4" long. At this point, it's a matter of inspection. With no mis-crossed wraps, and with all wraps pulled up tight, your finished product will have the appearance of the illustration's bottom view. If there's any doubt that it's right, cut it off and tie it again. Don't let a questionable knot be one of the questions you have in the water with a big fish on your hook and the line streaming off the reel. Of the things that can go wrong for me in that situation, my knots aren't one of them.

I guarantee that, with very little practice, you will be able to tie this great knot a lot faster than it took to read how to do it! The 95 to 98% rating of this knot's holding strength puts it in the area of great confidence in its ability to hold in the vast majority of your fishing situations. It also works with the superbraids; I generally use 12-14 turns/wraps around the doubled section when tying. Always use gloves when tightening any superbraid, don't take the chance of a quick and severe cut happening to you.

Years ago, I believe one of the major causes of lost fish was dull hooks, but that's all changed. With today's multitude of quality, super sharp hooks, my feeling is that the then number two cause of lost fish has

become number one, badly tied knots. No matter how great a knot is supposed to be, badly tied, it becomes the weakest link in your bait or lure presentation. The simplicity of lubricating with saliva, no mis-crossed wraps, pull up slowly and snugly and then tight, plus if it doesn't look good, cut it out and start again are all true. These factors have been true since mono was invented, and they still apply to all of today's knots as well.

Over a period of years that I've used the San Diego Jam knot, high drag settings, lots of aggressive hooking, pumping, short-stroking, and winding, I've never had this knot fail. I can also say the same about others I use; the point is ... the San Diego Jam is one of those confidence builders that's a welcome addition to anyone's bait presentation. This is especially true when that music I mentioned initially is coming from your reel.

**If you have any questions, stop by
Serious Tackle or email me at
chris@serioustackle.com.**

**Chris Gonzales
Owner - Serious Tackle**



**14065 Delany Rd.
LaMarque, Texas 77568
(In the Gulfway Plaza)**

Pro Fishing Gear & Tackle

- Baits/Lures
- Custom Rods
- In-House Rod/ Reel Repair
- Reel Parts
- Rod Components
- Inshore/Offshore Tackle
- Custom Rigging
- Custom Splicing

(409) 935-1126

