

The Serious Tackle Box

Experienced Fishing Advice To
Make Fishing Great Again

With Chris Gonzales

Loop Knotted Circle Hooks

We have all heard of and are possibly using the benefits of a Non-Slip Mono Loop Knot as a connection to our jigs, lures, etc. It's a knot that allows a greater swim motion/natural movement wherever it's used. Another obvious use of this high-range-of-motion connection has been simply overlooked. Such was the case for me. I recently used the loop knot to attach circle hooks to a mono leader, which significantly improved my hook-up ratio. On my last three offshore fishing trips, where red snapper was the primary target, using this non-slip mono-knot connection on my Carolina rigs, I seemed to miss fewer hookups. While that's a variable from trip to trip at times, the bottom line is the connection didn't affect the end results...or did it in a positive way? A loop connection gives that added range of motion and natural free-moving appearance to your bait presentation when activated by current movement or a simple rod twitch. It's certainly an active part of my offshore rigging as are another pair of loop-to-hook options with a similar effect.

This single dropper loop rig has the mono passing through the hook-eye before an 8 to 10 surgeon's loop is tied. The end result is the long tag end is the top vertical leader section with a swivel tied on it to connect to the main line off the reel, and the shorter bottom vertical leg has a sinker attachment loop.

The hook has freedom of movement on the "bait leg" giving an advantage similar to the loop knot. This same arrangement could also be used when making up a Carolina rig, slide your egg weight of choice onto the mono, slip the mono through the hook's eye, and carefully tie a 12 to 18" long surgeon's loop. The finished product will be a Carolina rig with a "sliding hook" on the loop. A more standard Carolina or fish finder rig would be 12-18" mono leader with a swivel on one end and non-slip loop connection to your circle hook on the other end. Slip an egg weight on your main line, tie the main to the swivel and you are good to go. This is the Carolina rig I use for most mono situations.



Loop Knotted Circle Hook



The Non-Slip Mono loop knot is easy to tie and has nearly 100 percent of line test strength in holding power. How to tie this connection is covered in an assortment of knot books, but the easiest source to find is on the internet. When tying up the knot, use 4 turns for 30/40, 3 turns with 50/60, and 2 turns when using 80/100 lb. mono. The advantage of using this knot at a circle hook in particular is the hook's increased range of motion, which gives better penetration as the bait and hook motion wobbles it into alignment with the fish's jaw or upper lip-mouth area at the bite. This is because of the reduced influence of the mono's stiffness. Any mono, tied tight at the hook's eye, will somewhat restrict hook movement at the time of attempted alignment for a positive hookset. Is this loop-to-circle hook connection a magical technique? Don't know about that since I've caught hundreds of fish over the last 50 years offshore without it until recently. I do believe it's a step in the right direction, which might be a key element in your personal best hookset...think about it! The more natural feel this connection can give at the bite might just make a wary adult of any species hold on for a nano-second longer, resulting in an otherwise missed hookup.

Give loop knotted circle hooks a try in any of your circle hook and natural bait use applications, also the "sliding hook on a loop. Keep your eyes and ears open for techniques to possibly improve your fishing success. I believe this Loop Knotted Circle Hook connection will do just that... "There's always another way"...again!

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)

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