

Big Lake Bass Team

Knots

Separates Good Stories from Great Pictures

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Fishing Knots

Tying a fishing knot is an important and essential skill of fishing. The knot is a critical link between you and the fish; it is critical to your fishing success to know how to tie knots correctly as well as which knot to use in which scenario.

- Fisherman's
- Palomar
- Uni (hangman's)
- Surgeon's (double surgeon's)
- Improved Cinch
- Trilene
- Alberto
- FG Knot
- Shark
- Berkley Braid
- Nanofil



Fishing Knots

FISHING KNOT CHARACTERISTICS

Fishing knots are designed to be tied in monofilament or braided fishing line and to run through the eyes and rings of a fishing rod or rig. Fishing line is cheap. The emphasis, therefore, is on **compactness and reliability with no interest in being able to untie** them. Many fishing knots employ multiple, tightly wound turns. The structure of such knots changes under load – outer wraps are pulled into the knot and the inner line becomes outer wraps.

LUBRICATE, TIGHTEN, TRIM & INSPECT

Fishing knots are intended to be pulled extremely tight before use. To ensure the knot tightens smoothly, and to avoid generating heat, the knot should be moistened with water first. The most conveniently available source of water is saliva - which is probably used more than anything else! When available, a better lubricant is vegetable oil.

The ends of most fishing knots can, and should, be trimmed closely against the knot. The best tool for the purpose is a nail clipper.

- Inspect
 - After finish tying - re-tie if necessary
 - After catching a fish – re-tie if necessary

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Fisherman's Knot

The name sort of gives it away and this one sometimes gets a bad rap when compared to more sophisticated knots; but every fisherman knows it or should because it is far and away the most popular knot for attaching hook to line.

1. Thread 2 or 3 inches of line through the eye of the hook, then double back on the main line.
2. Holding both the main line and the tag end, spin the hook five or six times so that the tag end wraps around the main line.
3. Now thread the tag end through the loop created above the hook eye.
4. Next, pass the tag end back through the larger loop created by passing the tag end through the eye.
5. Cinch it tight.

The fisherman's knot is also sometimes referred to as an improved clinch knot or half blood knot, the whole version of which is also pretty darned handy.

FISHERMAN'S KNOT:

STEP ONE:



STEP TWO:



STEP THREE:



STEP FOUR:



STEP FIVE:



MOSSY OAK®

Palomar Knot

The fisherman's knot isn't the only way to tie a line to a hook / lure.

Some folks prefer the Palomar.

4 Easy Steps for Tying the Palomar Knot:

1. Make a 4-6 inch loop in your line and pass the loop through the eye of your hook.
2. Now tie an overhand knot with the double line.
3. Pass the hook through the loop.
4. Cinch tight.

PALOMAR KNOT:

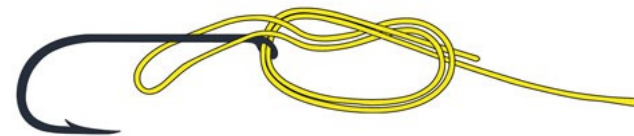
STEP ONE:



STEP TWO:



STEP THREE:



STEP FOUR:



MOSSY OAK®

Uni Knot

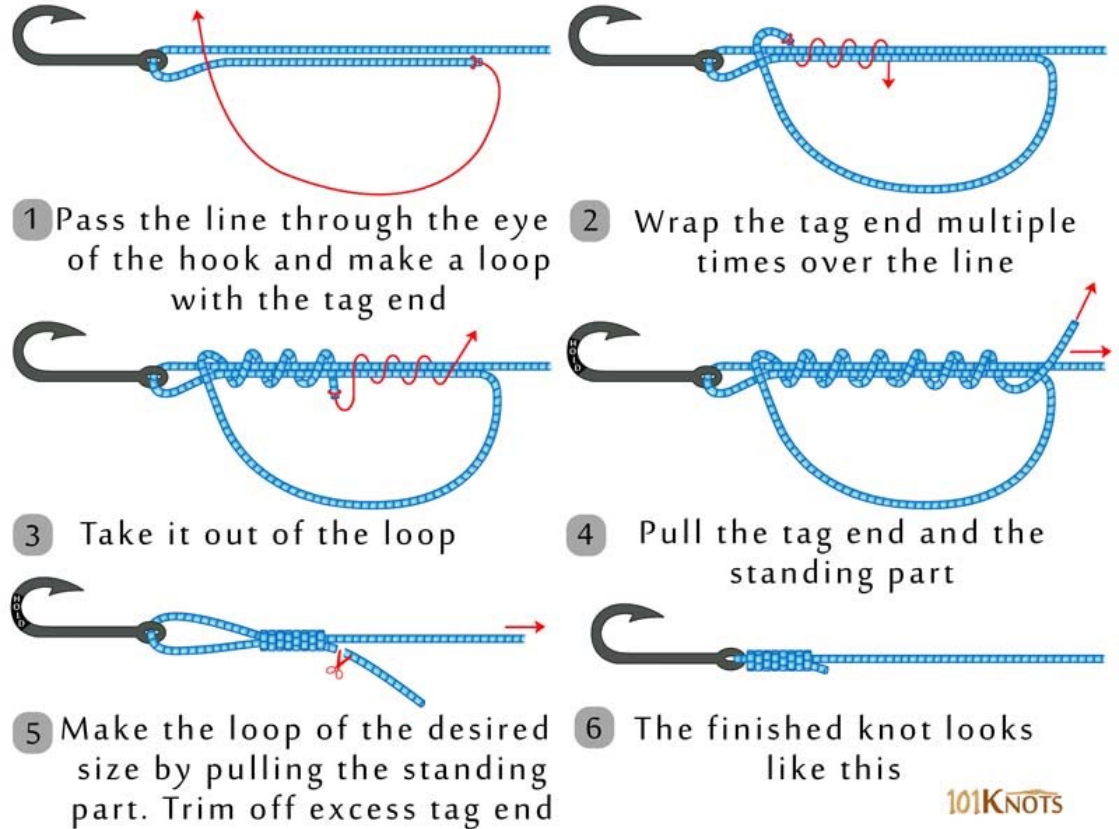
The Uni Knot, also known as the Hangman's Knot, is very popular with monofilament. It also works well when connecting Superline to leader material. The Uni Knot is great not only for tying a hook, but also for attaching line to a reel. The Uni Knot is popular because of how easy it is to tie and its versatility.

4 Easy Steps for Tying the Uni Knot:

1. Run line through the eye and double back, forming a circle
2. Tie uni-knot by wrapping tag end around double line six turns and through the loop
3. Moisten line, then pull main line to tighten knot
4. Pull main line to slide knot down to the eye of the hook or swivel

[Uni Knot](#)

Uni Knot Step By Step



101KNOTS

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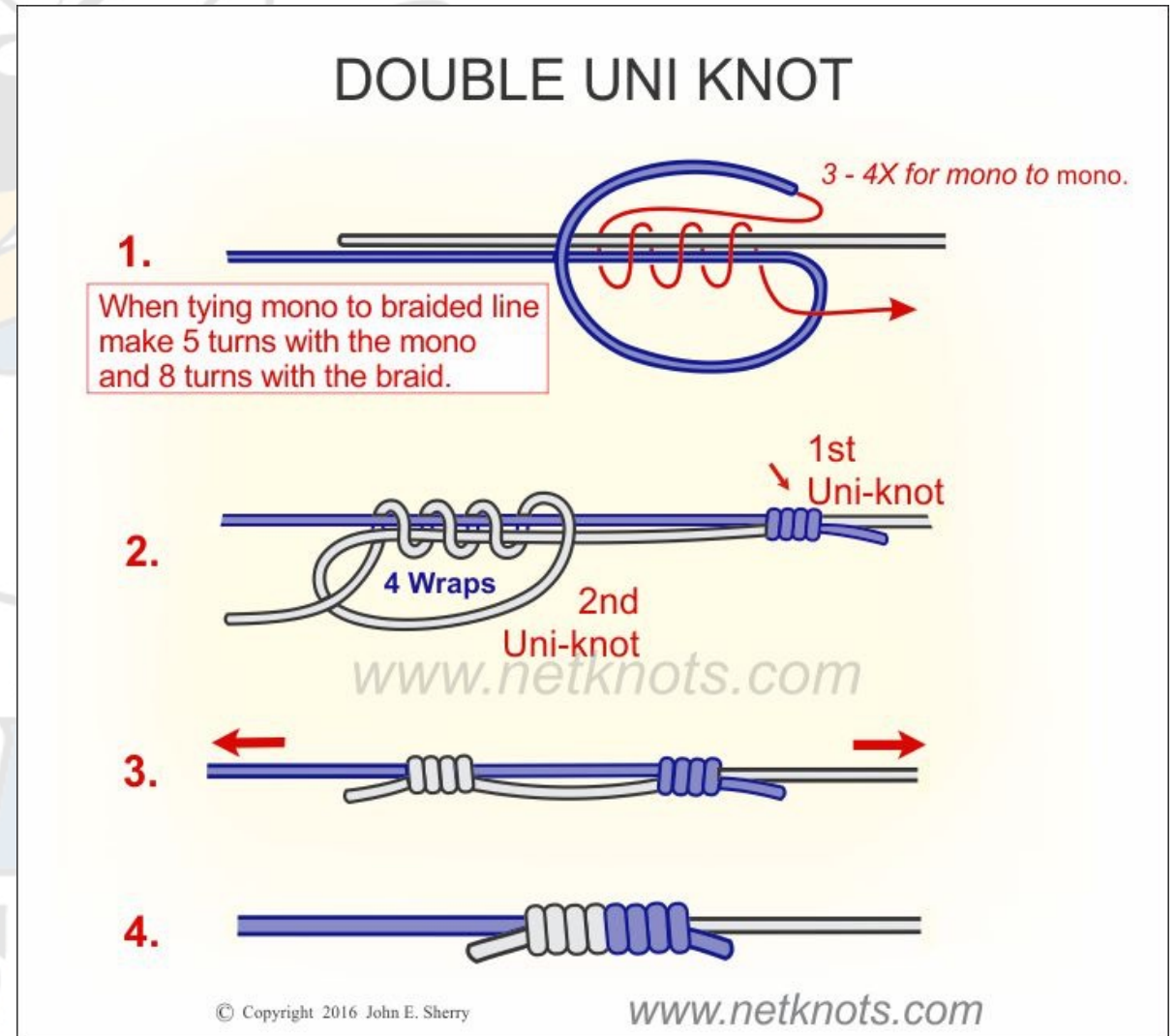
Double Uni Knot

This knot is used by anglers for joining lines of similar or different strengths. The Double Uni is the best knot for tying braided line to a fluorocarbon or monofilament leader.

4 Easy Steps for Tying the Uni Knot:

1. Overlap the ends of lines to be joined. Take the end of the line from the left and double back and make 3 to 4 wraps around both lines and through the loop that was formed. Pull tag end to tighten.
2. Repeat with the end of the line on the left making the same number of wraps unless tying with braided line in which you should double the number of wraps.
3. You have now tied two Uni knots. Pull the standing lines in opposite direction to slide the two knots together.
4. Clip ends close to the knot.

[Double Uni Knot](#)



Surgeon's Loop Knot

The Loop Knot or Surgeon's Loop does something different. Because the knot cinches well above the eye, it allows a hook or lure to move freely below the knot, so the knot doesn't depress lure action. This makes it a much better option for tying on plugs or spoons where action can be critical.

4 Easy Steps for Tying the Surgeon's Loop Knot:

1. Double the end of the line and tie a loose overhand knot.
2. Pass end of loop through the knot again.
3. (Optional) For Triple Surgeon's End Loop, pass the end of the loop through the knot again.
4. Hold the standing line and tag end and pull the loop to tighten the knot. Clip tag end close.

[Double Uni Knot](#)

SURGEON'S LOOP KNOT:

STEP ONE:



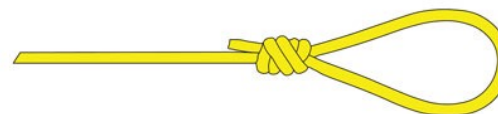
STEP TWO:



STEP THREE:



STEP FOUR:



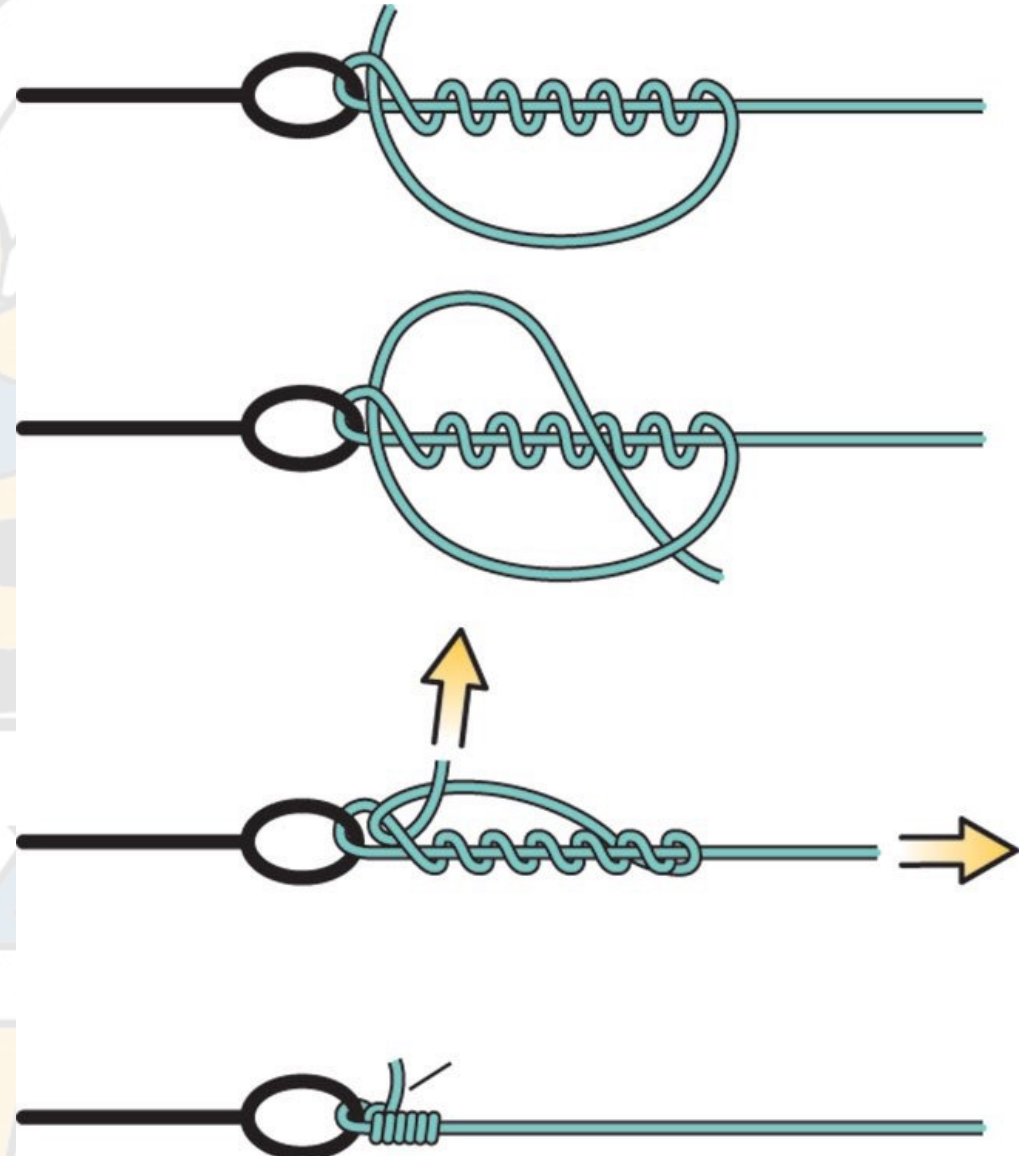
Improved Cinch Knot

The Improved Clinch Knot is one of the most widely used fishing knots. It provides a good method of securing a fishing line to a hook, lure, or swivel. The “improved” version shown here includes an extra tuck under the final turn (step 9). It is commonly used to fasten the leader to the fly. Because it is harder to tie in heavier lines it is not recommended if you are using over 30 lb test line.

4 Easy Steps for Tying the Surgeon’s Loop Knot:

1. Thread the line through the eye of the hook, then make 5 to 7 wraps around the line with the loose end.
2. Thread the loose end of the line through the loop closest to the eye, then back around inside the loose section of line.
3. Pull both ends of the line until tight.
4. Trim the loose end of the line if necessary.

[Double Uni Knot](#)



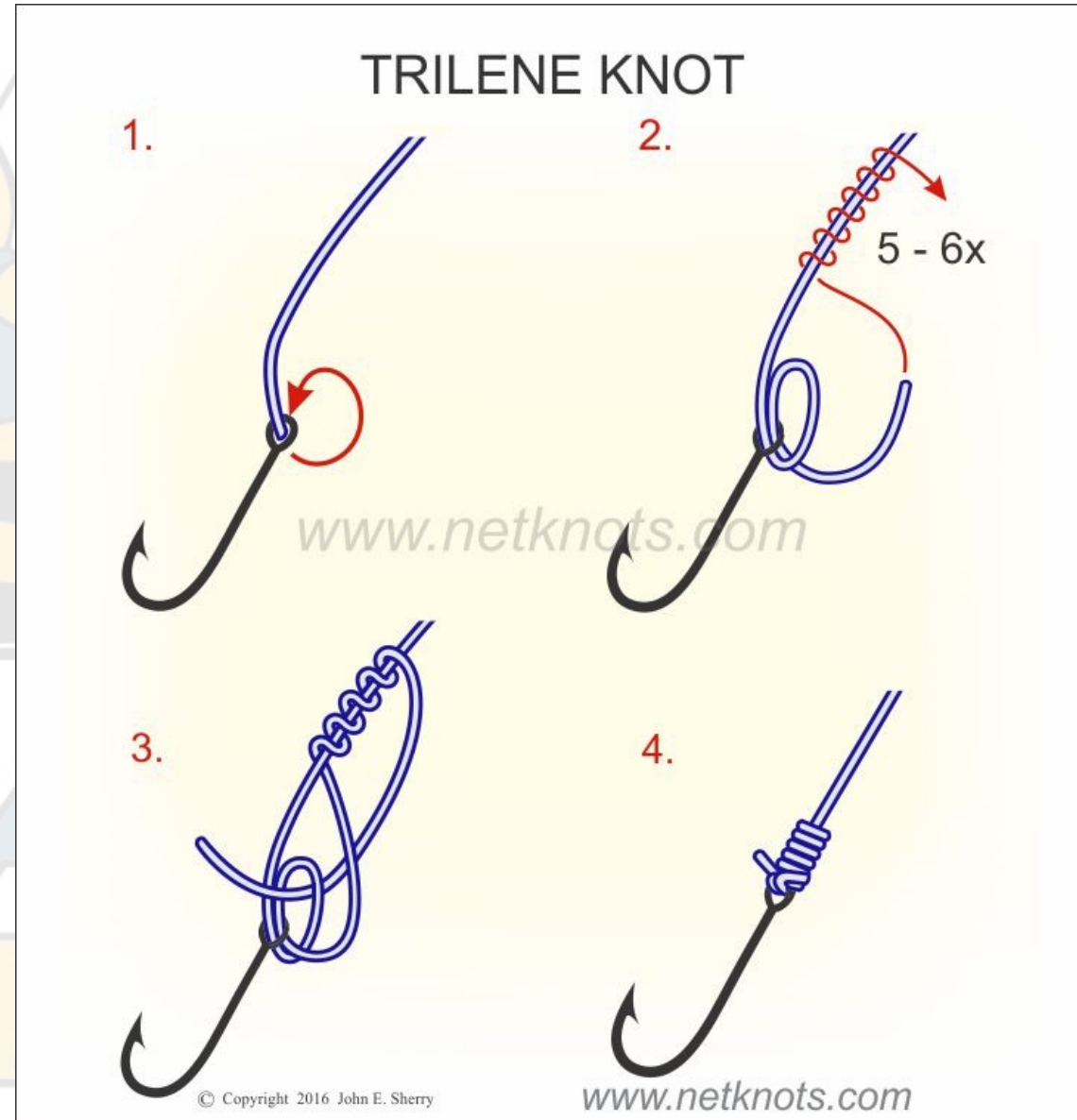
Trilene Knot

The Trilene Knot is a strong and reliable knot to join monofilament line to hooks, swivels and lures. It resists slippage and failures and is an excellent and stronger alternative to the Clinch Knot.

4 Easy Steps for Tying the Trilene Knot:

1. Pass the end of the line through the eye of the hook or lure two times creating a loop behind the eye.
2. Make five or six wraps around the standing line with the tag end.
3. Feed the tag end through both loops.
4. Moisten knot and pull tight with steady pressure.

[Double Uni Knot](#)



Alberto Knot

Braid with a fluorocarbon leader has become very popular in recent years in bass fishing and the one sticking point for a lot of anglers who have not adopted the two-line combination is the “extra” knot or fail point in the scenario.

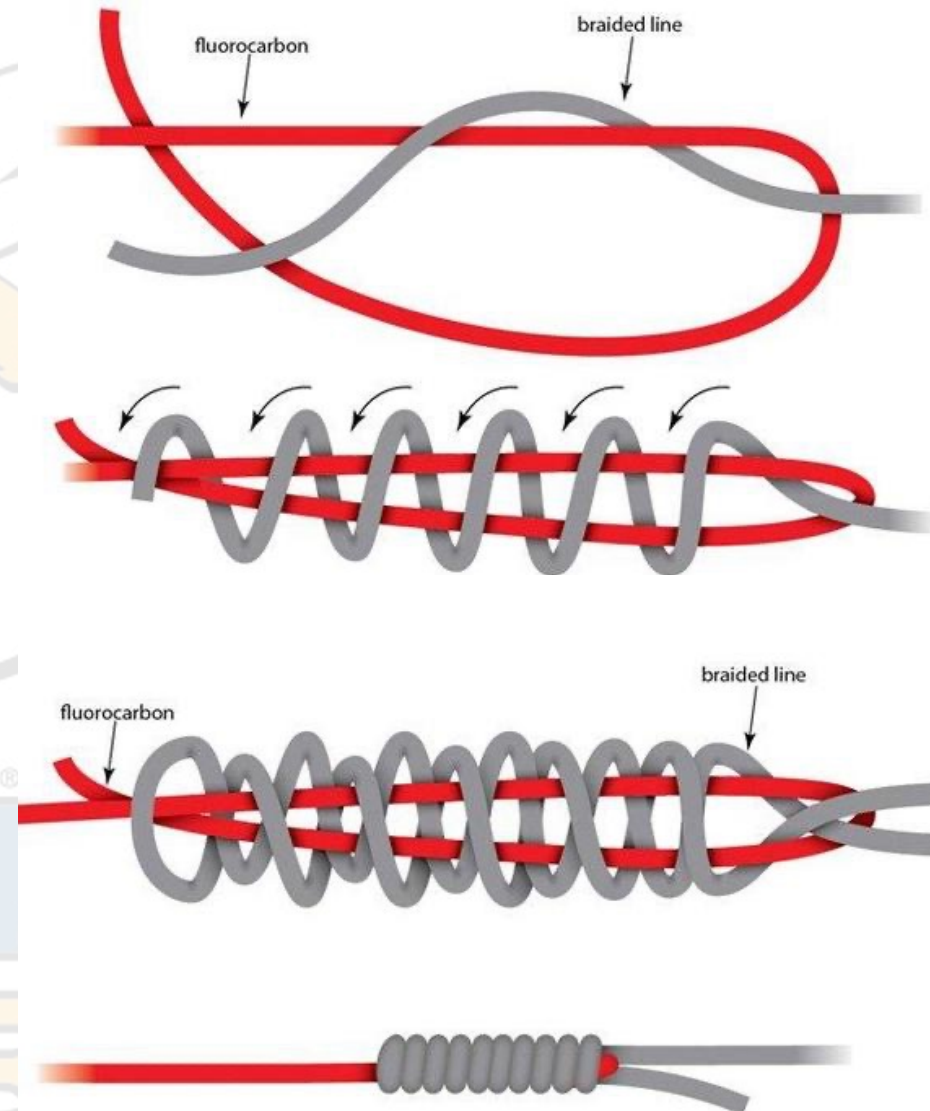
4 Easy Steps for Tying the Surgeon’s Loop Knot:

Start by doubling your fluorocarbon line and pinching it between your left hand (for right handers). Next, 1) pass the braid through the loop you have pinched between your fingers of the fluoro and begin wrapping the tag end of the braid around the two fluorocarbon lines.

Give yourself enough tag to wrap down 8 times and back up 10 times. So you wrap down 8 times, then reposition your grip and wrap up 10 times. The key to finalizing the knot is 2) passing the tag end back through the loop of the fluoro the way it came in, so that both ends of the braid are coming out the same direction in the loop.

Then grab the tag end and main line of the fluoro in one hand and the tag end and the mainline of the braid in the other hand and pull snugly until the knot cinches down. Then pull just both mainlines and secure the knot and test its strength and slippage before trimming the tag ends on each side. You can cut the tags pretty close on this knot so it will easily come through the guides.

[Double Uni Knot](#)



FG Knot

Open the end of the loop up by going over your index finger and thumb, forming a triangle. You want the lines nice and tight. Bring your middle finger inside where it will be available to help hold the leader as it is passed through the loop.

In the illustration on the left we have removed the hand to better show the lines but keep the lines as you have them on your hand. Maintain that tension in the braid around the index finger and the thumb. Now take your leader spool and pull off a length that is long enough to run from the spool on the ground, with your foot on it to hold a lot of tension and run it up over your knee. Now feed the end of the line into the loop. Grab the end with your middle finger and hold it, then reach in from the top and grab the line and bring it straight up.

Wrap the line down one side of the loop, hold with middle finger, then reach in from the top and grab and bring up and then you will wrap down the other side of the loop and grab with middle finger (steps 4, 5, 6, 7).

Repeat this weaving, down one side, up through the middle, down the other side, up through the middle, alternating one side to the other. Important - keep very strong tension on the leader. At anytime you can also give a few tugs on the leader to make sure everything is locking down nice and tight. Continue until the weaving is about 1 1/2 to 2 centimeters (1/2" to 3/4"). Make more twists for lighter line, fewer for heavy line. Pinch the spot where all three lines come together and release the braided line from your fingers. (Relief to those two fingers that have been holding the wraps!) Put some tension on the braid line running to your rod and let the tag end hang loose. Keep some tension on the leader. Now make a half hitch with the tag of the braid around the leader and the braid and pull it up nice and tight. Make about 6 to 8 more half hitches. You can either alternate the direction or make them all the same. After you pull the last one tight, take hold of the braid and the leader and pull very hard in opposite directions to lock it all down. Get any slippage out of it now and get the braid to really bite into the leader.

Trim the leader close to the knot.

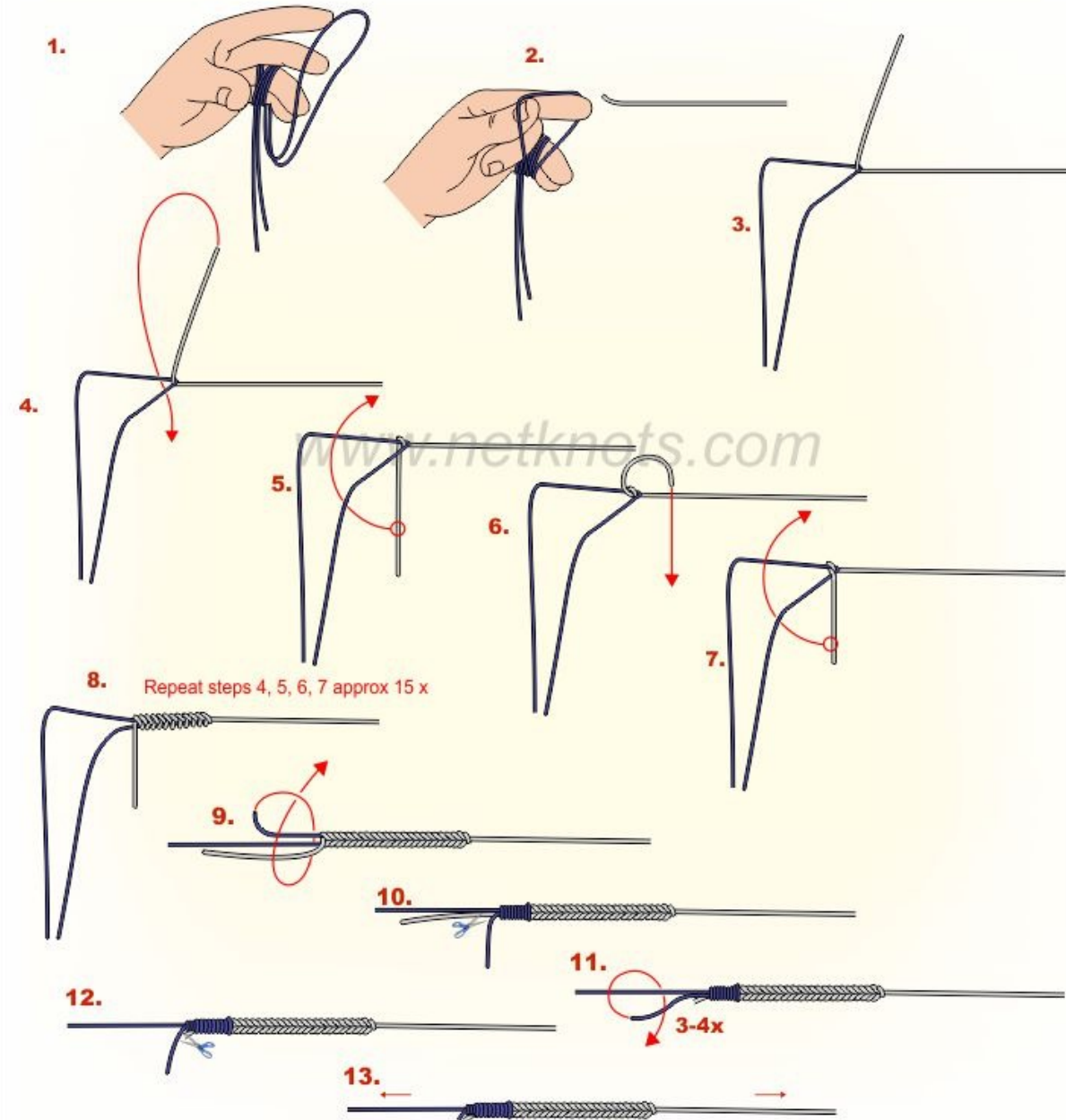
Now make three or four more half hitches with the tag of the braid around itself to finish it off.

Trim the tag end close.

Pull hard to check knot. It should not slip.

[Double Uni Knot](#)

FG KNOT

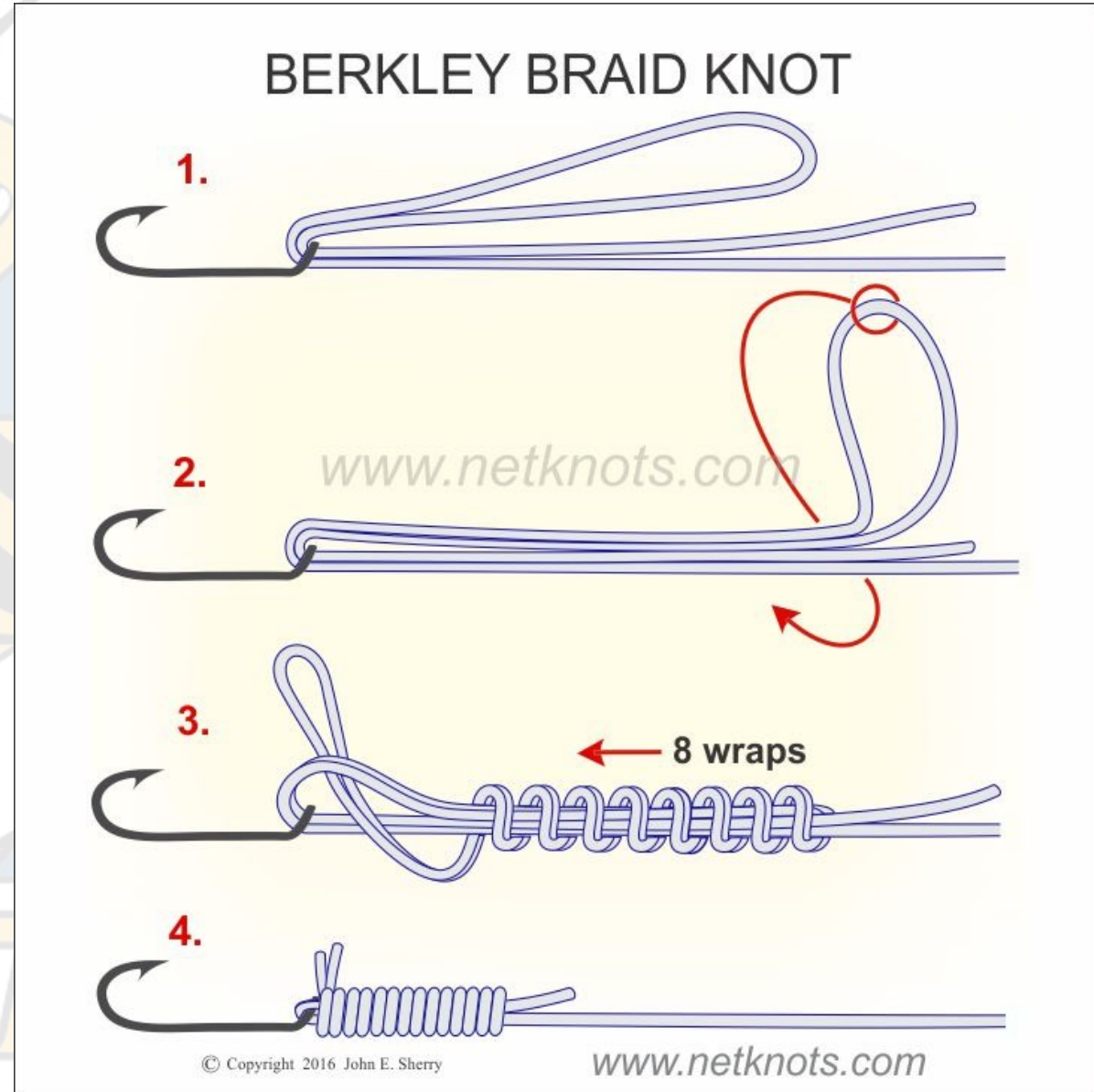


Berkley Braid / Shark Knot

The Berkley braid knot is a good choice for tying braided lines to hooks, lures and leaders. It was developed in the Berkley lab to retain good knot strength and stops braided lines from slipping out of the knot.

Steps for Tying the Berkley Fishing Braid Knot:

1. Run a double loop of braid through the hook eye or lure
2. Loop around tag end main line 8 times
3. Thread double loop back between the eye and coils
4. Tighten knot and trim double loop and tag end of braided line leaving about 1/4 inch



Nanofil Knot

With up to 15% more knot strength than a standard Palomar knot, this is THE KNOT you need to use with [Berkley NanoFil](#). NanoFil fishing line is uniquely smooth and requires this unique knot for best performance. This knot may also be used with other braid fishing line.

Steps for Tying the NanoFil Knot:

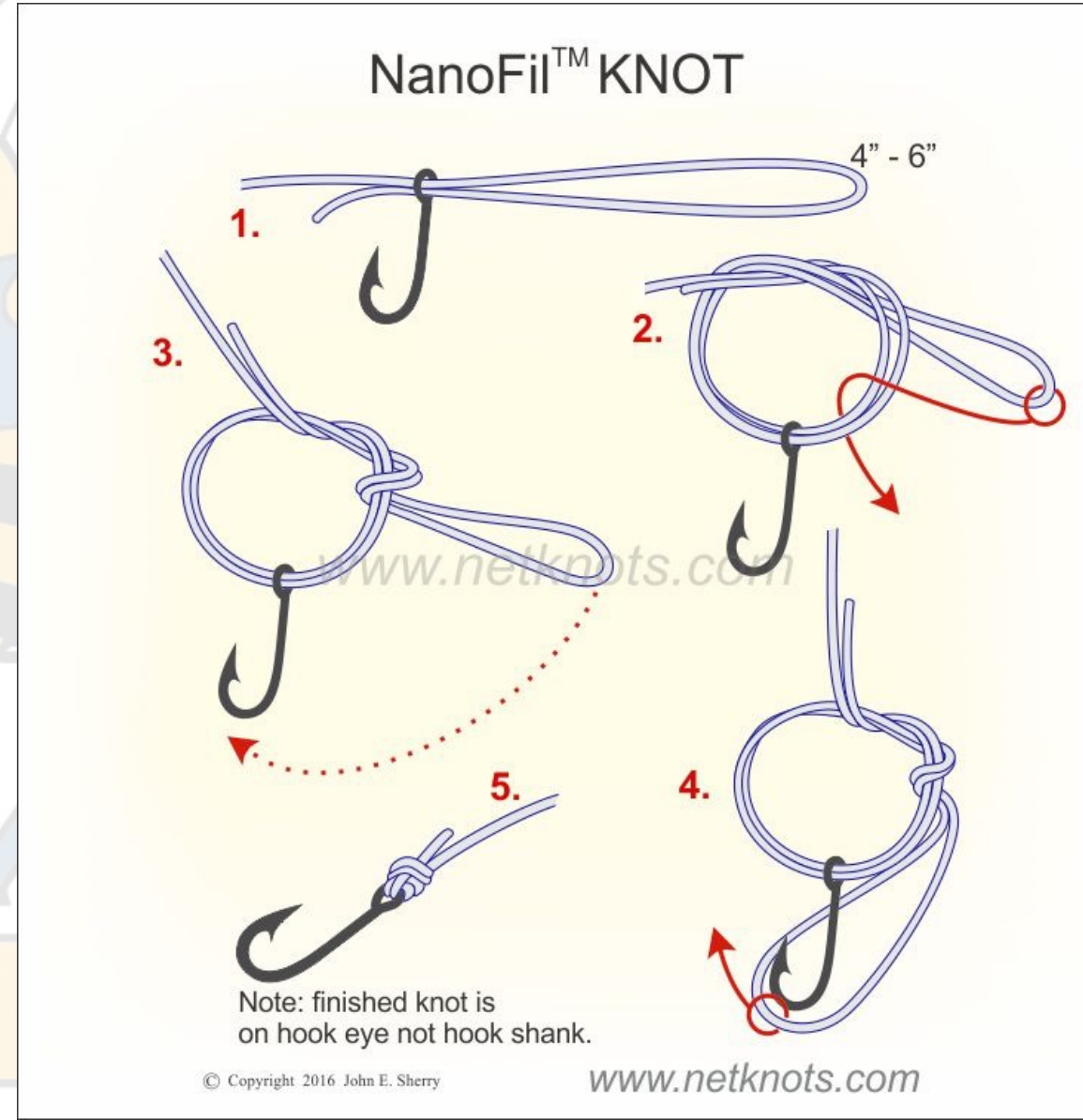
Double the line

Run through the hook eye

Make two wraps through the loop

Run hook or lure through the doubled line

Tighten to hook eye



[Double Uni Knot](#)

Which Knot Should I Use???

Attach Backing Line to Reel

[Attach Backing Line \(Arbor Knot\)](#)

Attach Line by Wrapping (Snell)

[Wind Line Round Shank \(Snell Knot\)](#)

Create Open Loop in End of Leader

[Lengthy Braid \(Australian\)](#)

[Lengthy Twist \(Bimini Twist\)](#)

[Neat Loop in the End \(Perfection\)](#)

[Loop in the Standing End \(Surgeon's\)](#)

Create Loop in the Middle of a Line

[Dropper Loop in the Middle of a Line](#)

Join Similar Sized Lines

[Join Monofilament Lines \(Blood Knot\)](#)

Attach Line to Lure with a Loop

[Attach line with Davy Knot](#)

[Attach line with Double Davy Knot](#)

[Attach Fly with Double Turle Knot](#)

[Attach line with Uni Knot](#)

[Attach line with Improved Clinch Knot](#)

[Line to Hook with Orvis Knot](#)

[Line to Hook with Non-Slip Mono](#)

[Line to Hook with Palomar Loop](#)

[Line to Hook with Rapala Knot](#)

[Line to Hook with San Diego Jam Knot](#)

[Line to Hook with Trilene Knot](#)

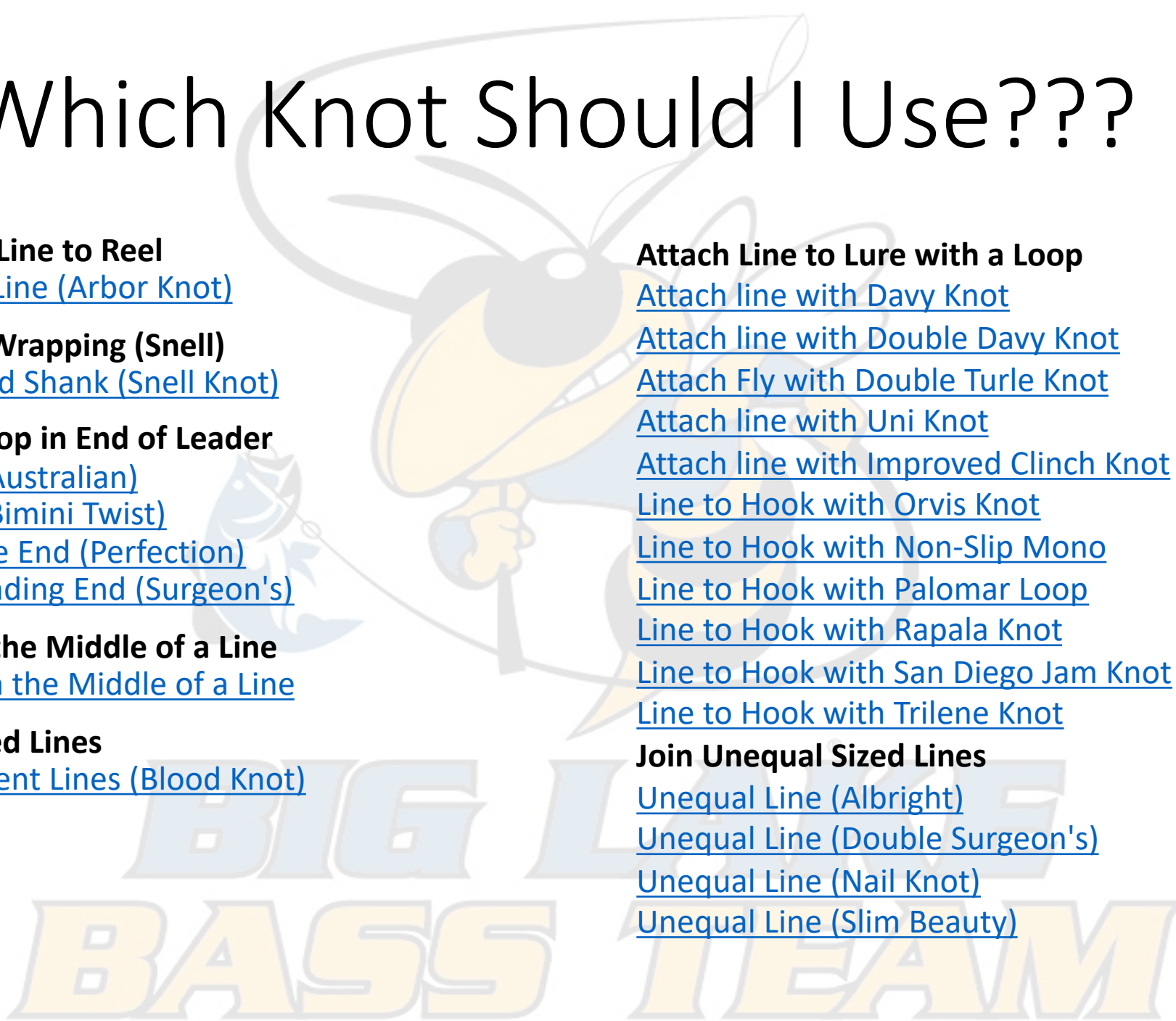
Join Unequal Sized Lines

[Unequal Line \(Albright\)](#)

[Unequal Line \(Double Surgeon's\)](#)

[Unequal Line \(Nail Knot\)](#)

[Unequal Line \(Slim Beauty\)](#)



Which Knot Should I Use???

Joining Lines

Some Knots are better than others for joining lines of different materials or sizes. The following list provides a some recommendations.

Strong Double Line Leader Loop (Claimed 100%)

[Bimini Twist](#)

[Australian Braid](#)

Better for Joining Mono Line to Braided

[Albright](#)

[Nail Knot](#)

[Uni Knot](#)

[Surgeon's Knot](#)

Excellent for Small Braided to Large Tippet

[Slim Beauty](#)

NOT Recommended for Joining Mono Line to Braided

[Blood Knot](#)

Better for Attaching Braided Line to Lures

[Palomar](#)

[Uni Knot](#)

Similar Knots

Many fishing knots serve almost identical purposes and are interchangeable. Know at least one example in each group.

Attach Line to Hook, or Swivel

[Improved Clinch](#)

[Orvis](#)

[San Diego Jam](#)

[Trilene](#)

[Uni Knot](#)

Joining Lines

[Albright](#)

[Blood Knot](#)

[Surgeon's Knot](#)

[Nail Knot](#)

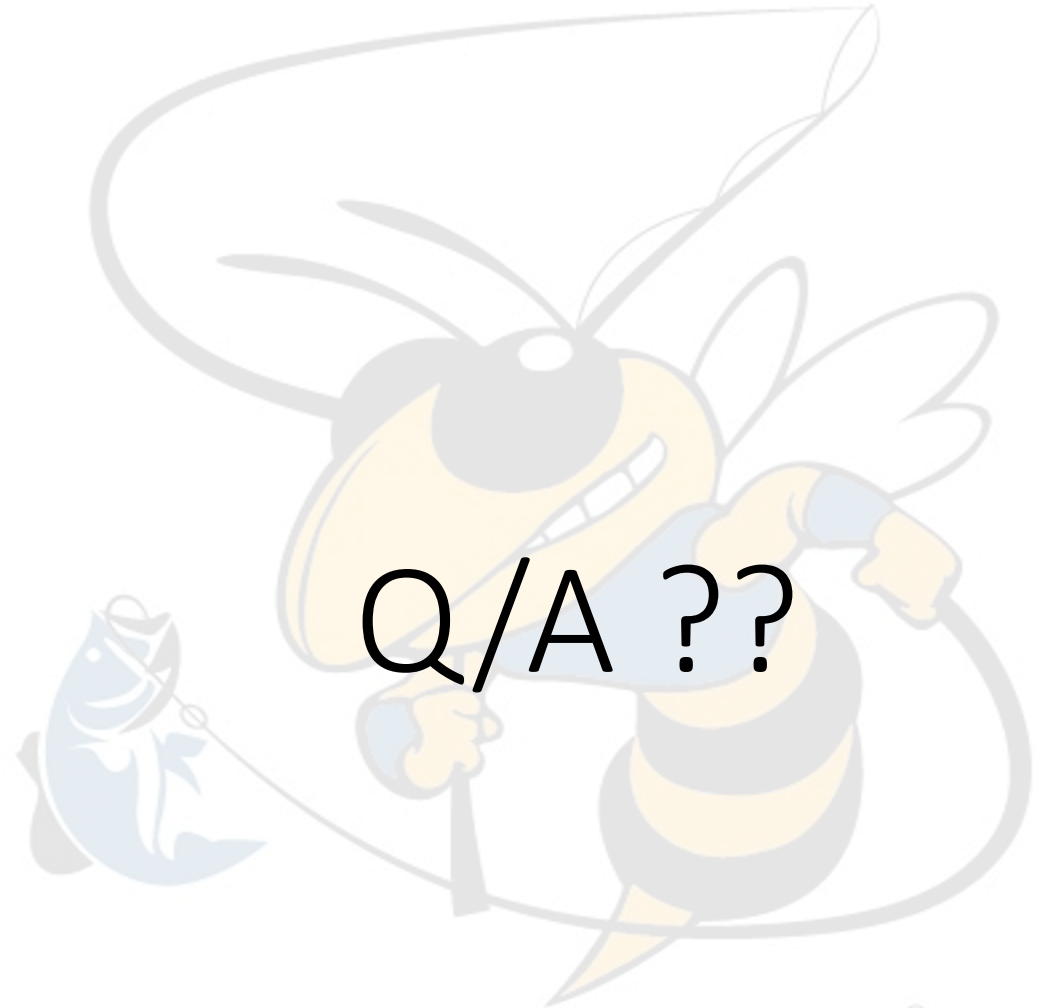
[Slim Beauty](#)

Attaching Line to a Lure

[Rapala](#)

[Palomar](#)

[Surgeon's Loop](#)



Q/A ??

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