

The Serious Tackle Box

Experienced Fishing Advice To
Make Fishing Great Again

With Chris Gonzales

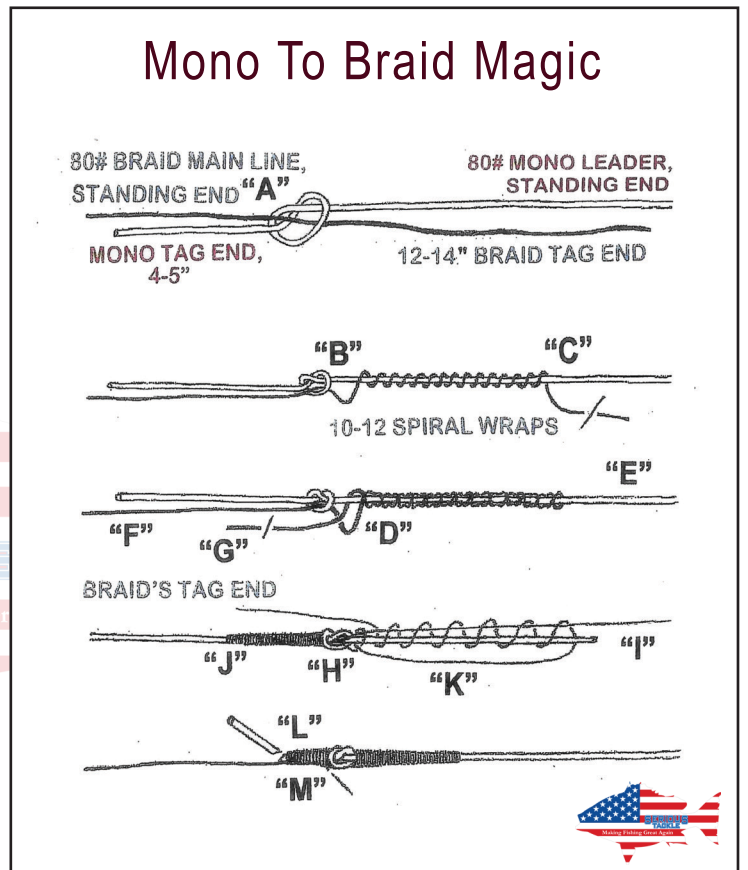
— Mono To Braid Magic —

Mono To Braid Magic doesn't really have any magic involved. It's just a great knot with a lock that I've been using since 1998 or so. With the increased popularity of using braid as the main line off the reel, this new piece will give a new group another way to go. It will also serve as a reminder to long-time readers of this superior mono-to-braid connection. It's a connection that's never failed me.

This knot came to me from Australia as the "Roddy Hayes Knot" and then to California as the "Tony Pena," its final version, mine, is the added reverse lock knot for smoothing its passage through the rod guides. When I started with the Pena version, which was super strong, it occasionally knocked out a rod guide ring because of the "step" on the braid side of the knot when on the retrieve under a load. My use of the five-turn reverse lock knot solved the problem. The lock knot simply smoothes out the total connections passing through the rod guides. The lock adds no strength to the connection; it just makes it all perfect. This knot is smoother than the Albright, so it has to be smoother through the rod guides but is a bit harder to tie. I say harder, but in reality, it's easy once you practice tying it up a time or two.

To tie up the combination refer to the illustration for a clear view of the steps involved. Start by loosely tying an overhand knot in the mono, leaving about a 4 to 5" tag end. Hold the mono's tag end and knot in your left hand, and pass the braids tag end through the "open" overhand knot as at "A," then pull 12-14" of the braid thru the mono's overhand knot. Next tightly snug the overhand mono knot as shown in the second view. Now with your left thumb and index finger pinch the mono knot and braid loop as at "B," now wind the braid around the mono 10-12 spiral turns.

With your right hand now hold the "up" wraps with your left hand, as at "C" and proceed to wind the braid back toward the mono overhand knot again for 10-12 turns. Insert the tag end of the braid through the loop left in the braid next to the overhand knot, the up and back wrapped braid with the braids correct insertion through the braids wrap's base loop "D" as in the third view. To tighten the braid's spiral wraps, moisten them



with saliva, then hold the mono leader, "E," in your right hand and the braid carefully in your hand "F." Now, slowly apply tension to tighten the spiral wraps around the mono and against the mono's overhand knot. There may be some "looseners" in the wraps as it nears the overhand knot during the tightening. To even out the tightening pull on the tag end of the braid, "G." Give the last pull to tighten the braids wraps around the mono and against the very snug overhand knot in the mono pull at "F" and "E." Next firmly tighten the monos overhand knot, "H."

The connection "J" and "H" should now look like the fourth view of the illustration and be ready for the smoothing lock knot. The braids spiral wraps around the mono and stopping at the overhand mono knot are the cushion,



shock absorber, and grip that are the heart of the total connection. With the knot completed, start the reverse lock knot with a half hitch just outside the mono knot as at "H," tighten. Form the lock knot by holding the braid wraps in your left hand and pinch the braid against the mono, leaving a loop hanging down. While holding the braid about two inches or so away from the mono's knot back spiral the braid's tag end around the mono and braid as at "K." Now while holding the mono leader as at "I" slow tighten the reverse lock knot against the mono knot. Note that the fourth view is reversed from the others, this was done because most folks are right-handed and this is the way to show the "lock." The bottom view shows the look of the completed connection. To get there you first pull the braid to the side and clip the monos tag end very carefully and closely to the braid lock knot, at an angle as shown at "L."

My trusty diagonal cutters do a fine job leaving a chiseled point and edge to help with line flow through the rod guides. Last but not least is to cut the lock's braid tag end close, "M." I also apply a small drop of super glue at its cut-off point, just for insurance. You have just tied up, in my opinion, the strongest and smoothest through the guides braid to mono connection out there.

When used with spin gear the knot needs to be just outside the spool lip, not wrapped onto the spool. The hesitation as the slightly stiff knot

passes over the lip effects casting distance with its outward "slap." The knot also has a bit of a problem when passing over the reels roller when headed for the spool. All of these problems are slight but having the knot, just off the spool at the cast eliminates them.

The most extreme pull test of any knot is a straight, hard pull as in rigging or hook caught in structure. Any time this has happened either the knot at the hook, the swivel, or the mono itself, broke but never the serious connection. Give this Mono to Braid Magic a try. It does all I say it will. I use it and worry about something else!

If you have any questions, stop by Serious Tackle or email me at

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