

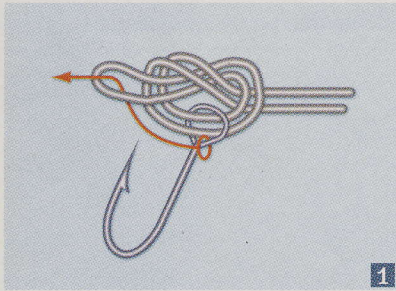


## Essential Ties

Five knots every fisherman should know **BY TOM KEER**

**A**nglers are constantly scrounging for new tricks to catch more fish, yet many overlook the way a knot affects their lure in the water or which knot is best for the type of hook they're using. To that end, here are five knots that will help fishermen get the most out of their lures, flies and baits.

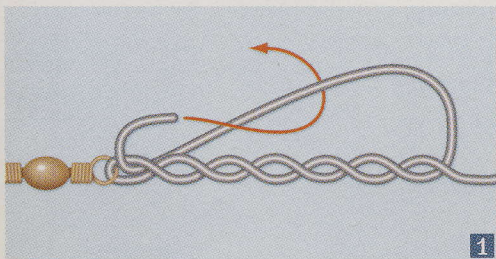
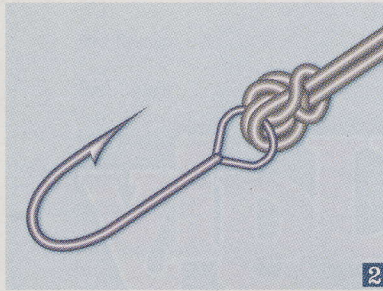
Listed at the end of each knot's description is its breaking strength, which is simply the point at which the knot will break with respect to the line's strength. For example, if you're fishing with 10-pound-test line and use a knot with 95 percent breaking strength, the knot will break at 9.5 pounds. The general rule of thumb is to use knots that have at least 90 percent breaking strength.



### PALOMAR KNOT

The Palomar is a fast, easy-to-tie knot for short, single-hook lures and baits. It can be easily tied in low-light conditions and works best on lines thinner than 15-pound-test.

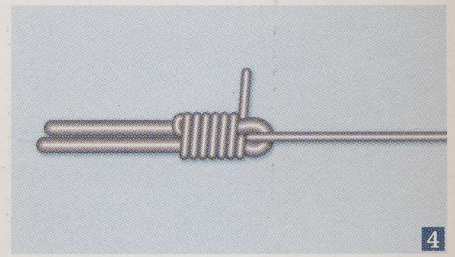
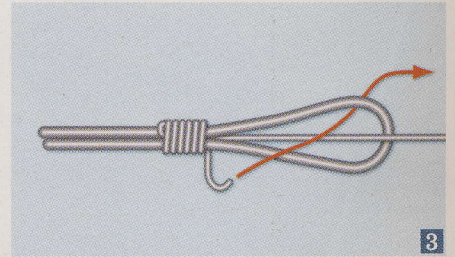
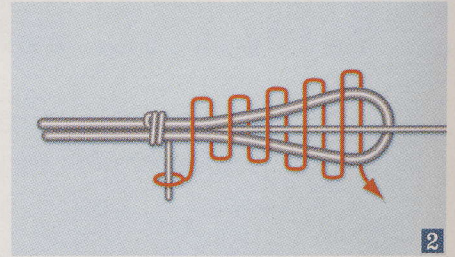
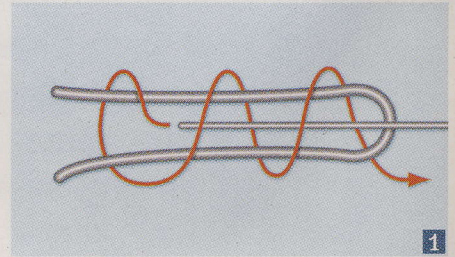
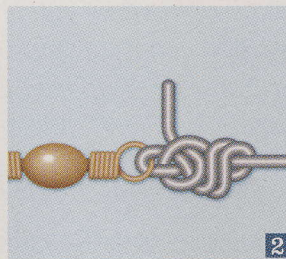
**Breaking strength:** 100 percent



### IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT

The improved clinch knot, also known as the improved fisherman's knot, takes one more pass through the loop than the standard clinch knot, giving it added strength. It works best on thin-diameter lines.

**Breaking strength:** 95 percent



### ALBRIGHT KNOT (WITH A LOCK)

When adding mono shock leaders for pitching lures into mangrove tangles, or adding mono or wire for toothy fish like bluefish, the Albright knot is perfect for linking two lines of different diameters.

The lock adds a bit of security for those prolonged fights with fish like tarpon.

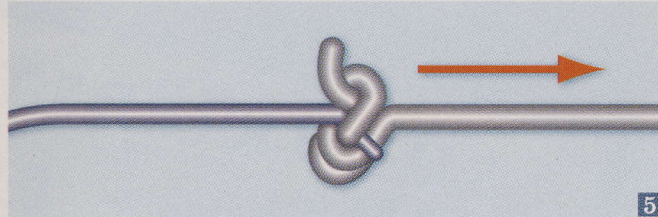
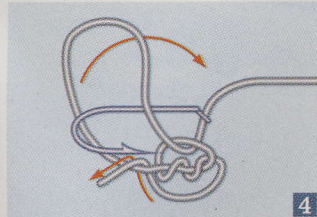
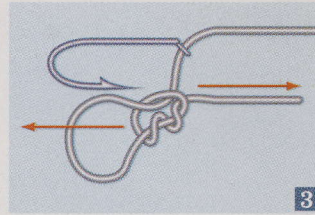
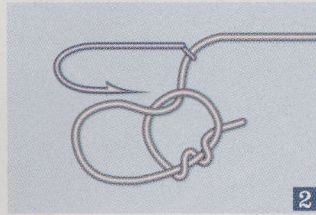
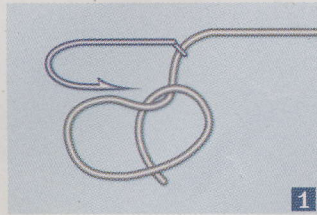
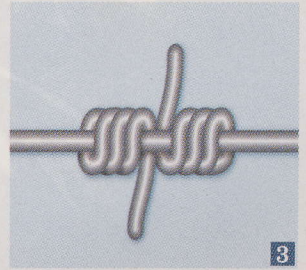
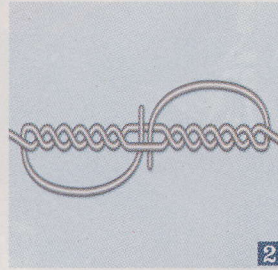
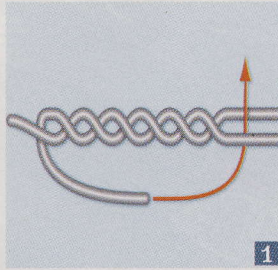
**Breaking strength:** 95 percent



## BLOOD KNOT

The blood knot, also known as the barrel knot, is primarily used by fly-fishermen and for attaching fresh tippet material to a leader. Many anglers will extend the tag end of the blood knot to tie on a dropper fly and fish a tandem rig.

**Breaking strength:** 95 percent



## IMPROVED TURTLE KNOT

With its high breaking strength, the improved turtle knot is most often used by flyfishermen.

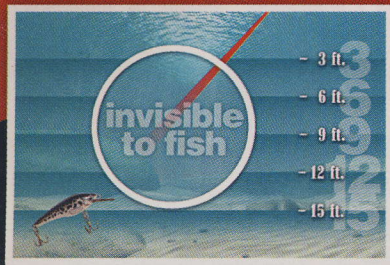
This knot loops around the fly's head and the standing line runs directly through the eye, so your fly floats naturally and doesn't ride with its head in the water.

**Breaking strength:** 95 percent



DAVID O. MILLER

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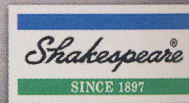
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