

# PRIVATE LESSONS

## FISHING TIP

### Freshwater Classics

*Try these knots to give your flies their most natural presentation*

Flyfishermen face one of the greatest challenges angling has to offer. They have to present their lures in the most natural way possible to trout that may be finicky and/or extremely wise, depending on how hard they've been fished. Here are a couple of knots that make the

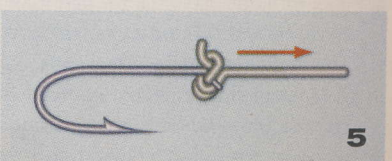
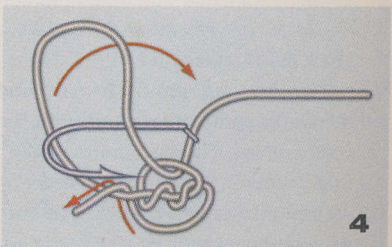
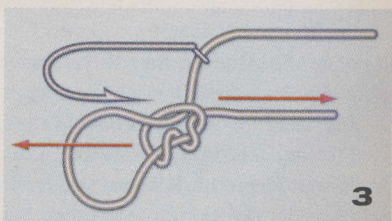
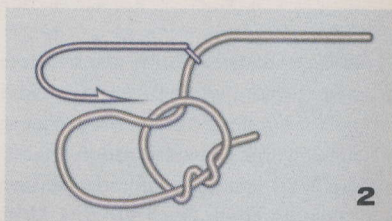
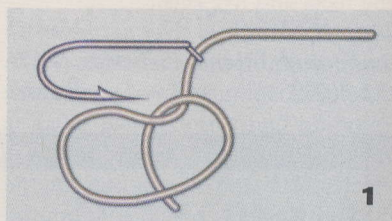
task easier. The turler knot will allow dry flies to float in a more natural fashion and streamers and nymphs to move more easily with the current. The blood knot will help ensure that the tippet lies out straight on the cast.

Listed at the end of each knot's description is its breaking strength relative to line test. For example, if you're fishing with 10-pound-test line and use a knot with 95 percent breaking strength, then the knot will break at 9.5 pounds.

The general rule of thumb is to use only knots that have at least 90 percent breaking strength. —Tom Keer

#### IMPROVED TURLER KNOT

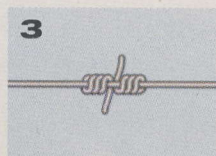
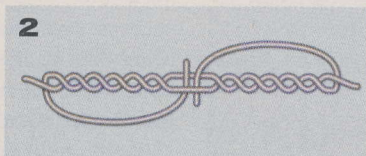
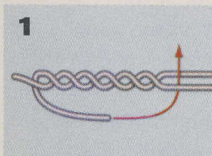
This knot loops around the fly's head and the standing line runs directly through the eye so that your fly floats naturally and doesn't ride with its head in the water. Breaking strength: 95 percent.



#### FRESHWATER FLYFISHING

##### BLOOD KNOT

Also known as the "barrel knot," the blood knot is used for attaching fresh tippet material to a tapered line. This knot keeps the tippet straight, which means the fly runs true. Many anglers will extend the tag end of the blood knot and tie on a dropper fly, thereby fishing a tandem rig and increasing the odds of a bite. Breaking strength: 95 percent.



##### LOOSE ENDS

1. Always lubricate your knots; friction weakens monofilament and increases knot failure; water or saliva will reduce the heat of the line when it slides against itself.
2. It's easier to manipulate the tag line (short end) around the standing line (long end).
3. Seat your knots firmly. Make sure that you pull slowly and steadily until the knot is smooth and tight. If you lose a fish and there is a pigtail at the end of your line, you didn't seat the knot. Also, avoid using sharp tugs when seating knots—they stretch and weaken monofilament.
4. Always check lines for nicks and abrasions and use the proper tools for trimming the tag ends.
5. When using lines made by two different manufacturers, be sure to compare line diameters. While they may be similar in breaking strength, they may be different in diameter, which could cause a knot to fail when you're playing a fish.