

# Three Knots to Fish By

*These classic knots get the most out of your lure or fly*

Anglers constantly scrounge to find new tricks to catch more fish, yet many don't understand which knot is best for the type of hook they've chosen. These three basic knots will help both conventional anglers and flyfishermen to get the

most out of their lures, flies or baits.

Listed at the end of each knot's description you'll find its breaking strength, which is simply where the knot breaks with respect to the line's strength. For example, if you're fishing with 10-pound-test line and use a

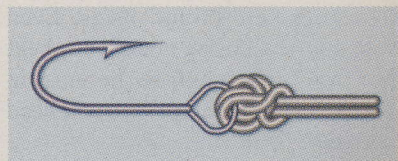
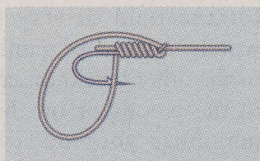
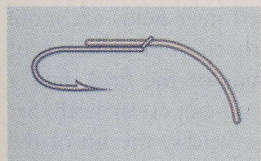
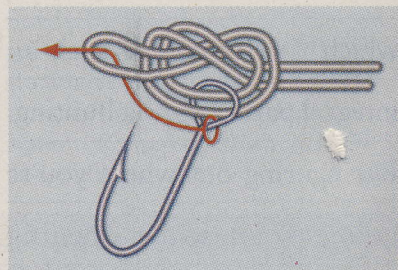
knot with 95 percent breaking strength, then the knot will break at 9.5 pounds. The general rule of thumb is to use only knots that have at least 90 percent breaking strength. If a fish does break off, at least it won't be the knot's fault. —Tom Keer

## CONVENTIONAL FRESH WATER



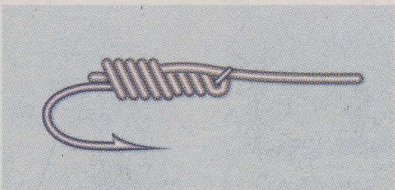
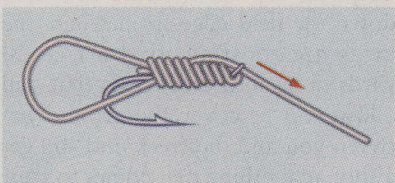
### IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT

The improved clinch knot (also known as the "improved fisherman's knot") takes one more turn through the loop, which gives it more strength. It works best on thin-diameter lines, which makes it ideal for tying flies to ultra-fine tippets. Breaking strength: 95 percent.



### EGG LOOP

The egg loop, a variation of the snelled hook knot, works best when you're fishing for salmon, steelhead or big browns with up-turned hook-eyes and salmon eggs. Many anglers will pre-rig a variety of sizes before heading to the river, particularly during the winter, because it saves fishing time. It is also difficult to tie this knot with numb hands. Breaking strength: 95 percent.



### PALOMAR KNOT

The Palomar knot is a fast, easy-to-tie knot for short, single-hook lures and baits. It also can be quickly tied during low-light conditions. The Palomar starts by looping the line and passing the loop through the eye of the hook. Then an overhand knot is tied with the loop. Pass the loop over the shank of the hook before cinching tight. This knot works best on lines thinner than 15-pound-test. Breaking strength: 100 percent.

## LOOSE ENDS

1. Always lubricate your knots before you tighten them down. 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" (short end) around the "standing" (long end) of the line.

3. Seat your knots firmly. Make sure you pull slowly and steadily until the knot is smooth and tight. If you lose a fish and there is a curl at the end of your line, you didn't seat the knot properly. Also, avoid using sharp tugs, which stretch and weaken monofilament, when seating knots.

4. Always check lines for nicks and

abrasions while fishing. And use the proper tools for trimming the tag ends.

5. When using lines made by two different manufacturers, make sure you compare line diameters. While they may be similar in breaking strength, lines by different makers may be different in diameter, which could cause a knot to fail when you're playing a fish.