

## A short guide to the most popular fishing knots.

Whether you are just a beginner to angling or you are aiming to improve your skills you will need to learn how to tie knots. All anglers use knots to secure their hooks, lures, or swivels to the fishing line.

Knots play a very important role in our fishing, as ultimately it is the strength of the knot and how well it is tied that decides the outcome of whether we land that fish of a lifetime or if that fish becomes the story of the one that got away. In this guide we show you 5 of the most popular knots used by anglers and some of their uses, we hope you find this helpful.

It is a really good idea to practice on a larger piece of string to get used to the technique before you move to

the finer fishing line. If you need help with what line to use then just ask a local angler or call into your local fishing tackle shop.

### The Surgeons Loop

This is essentially a double overhand knot, it is a very easy knot to learn and quick to tie, this knot is very often the one used when joining hook lengths to mainline 'loop to loop' style and is very popular among all anglers.

### The Four Turn Water Knot

This knot has many uses for the angler and it is popular among fly anglers, where it is used to tie a 'dropper' to the main line. It is also the knot used to tie on a paternoster link and some anglers use this knot to tie hook lengths onto delicate pole rigs as it is more direct than the loop to loop method.

### The Clinch Knot

The clinch knot is a favourite amongst anglers and it is widely used across all disciplines of our sport due to its strength, reliability and simplicity. This knot is probably the most reliable one for tying on hooks, swivels, flies etc., due to the fact that once tied this knot cannot slip.

### The Blood Knot (a.k.a the barrel knot)

Using this knot is a good way of joining two lines together (sections of leader or tippet etc.), the reason this is a good knot for this purpose is due to the fact that it retains most of the line strength through the knot so will not let you down when it counts. It can be a little bit tricky to learn.

For all information regarding Inland Fisheries Ireland please log onto

[www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)

or send an email to

[outreach@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:outreach@fisheriesireland.ie)

### The Albright Knot

This again is a popular knot used mainly for tying lines of different diameters together and as such comes in very useful for both coarse and game anglers alike. The game angler may use this knot to tie a fly line to a backing line, whilst a coarse angler would use this to tie a braided line to a monofilament leader known as a shock leader.

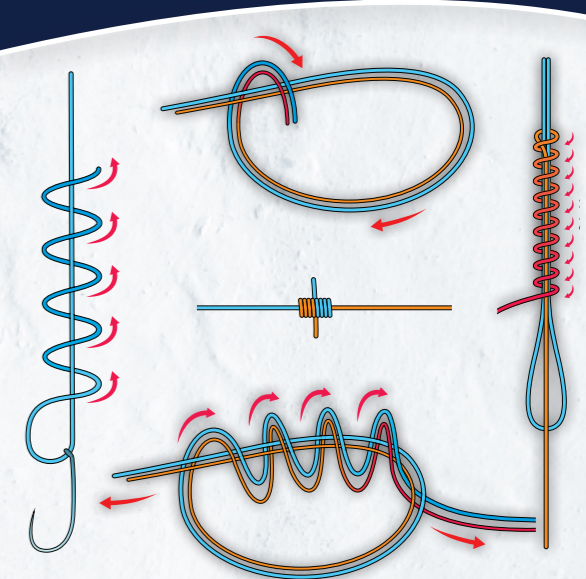
**Safety notice – never go alone to any waterways and keep safe near water.**

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**Go Fishing Programme  
Guide to  
Fishing Knots**

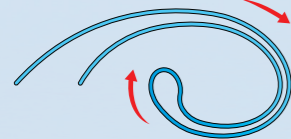


## SURGEONS LOOP

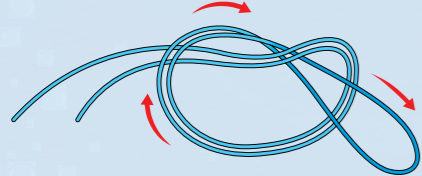
1 - Double the end of the line.



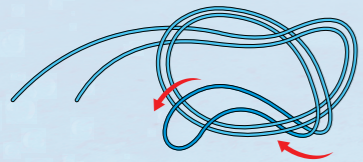
2 - Tie a loose overhand knot.



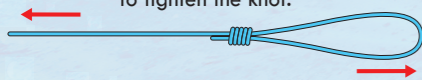
3 - Pass the end of the loop through the knot.



4 - Pass end of loop through the knot again.

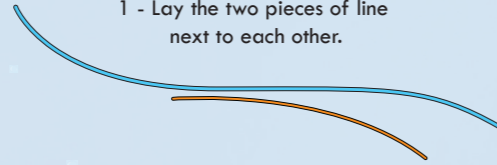


5 - Hold the standing line and tag end, moisten and slowly pull the loop to tighten the knot.

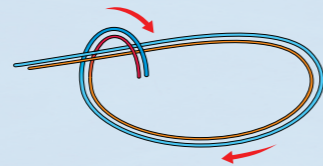


## FOUR TURN WATER KNOT

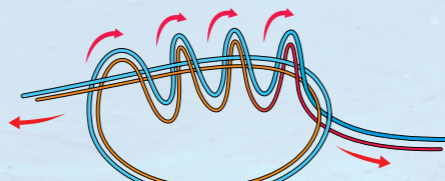
1 - Lay the two pieces of line next to each other.



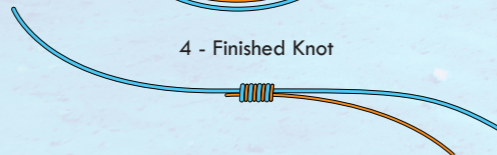
2 - Tie an over hand knot with both pieces held together.



3 - Repeat the over hand knot 3 more times and holding the 2 sets of tag ends, moisten & slowly pull tight.

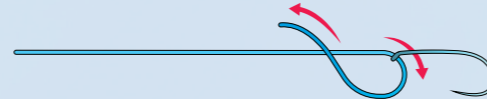


4 - Finished Knot

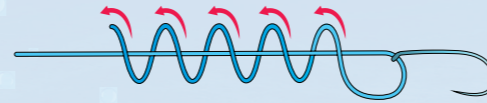


## CLINCH KNOT

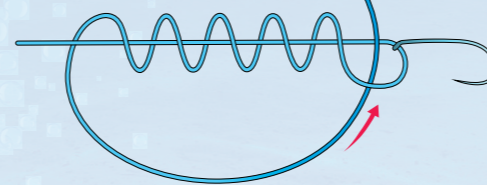
1 - Pass the loose end through the hook eye.



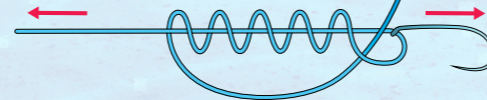
2 - Wrap the loose end around the line 5 times.



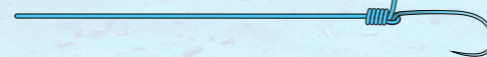
3 - Pass the loose end through the first loop.



4 - Moisten & slowly pull both ends until tight.

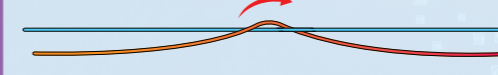


5 - Finished Knot

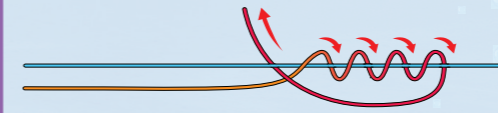


## BLOOD KNOT

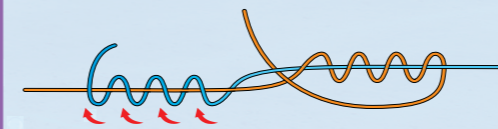
1 - Overlap the 2 sections of line and begin to wind one around the other.



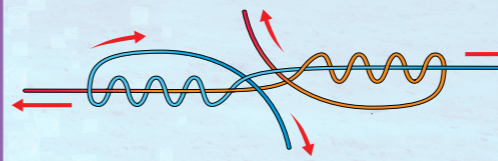
2 - Continue wrapping for 4 turns, then double back the loose end and tuck it back between the 2 lines where the twist begins.



3 - Take the remaining loose end and repeat the twisting procedure on the opposite side.



4 - Take the loose end and pass it through the centre loop. Moisten the knot, tighten the loose ends and then slowly pull on the main lines to cinch the knot.



5 - Finished Knot

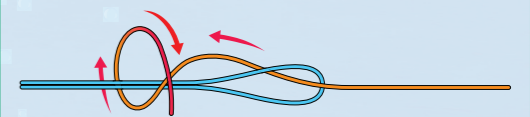


## ALBRIGHT KNOT

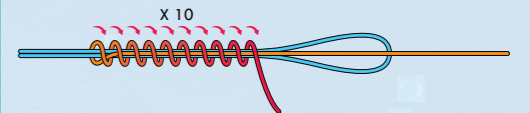
1 - Form a loop in one line and feed the other line through it.



2 - Wrap the loose end back over itself and both strands of the loop.



3 - Make 10 tightly wrapped turns.



4 - Pass the tag end back through the loop. Moisten & slowly pull both ends to tighten the knot.



5 - Finished Knot

