

GRAYS *of* **KILSYTH**
 EST. 1983
 PURVEYORS OF
 TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH FLIES

ONLINE SHOP
 in association with
 WorldPay
 TRUSTED WORLDWIDE

- Home
- Framed Flies
- Salmon Flies
- Trout Flies
- Sea Trout Flies

Boxed Flies

- Salmon Flies
- Trout Flies
- Sea Trout Flies
- Needle Flies
- Online Store

Sidelines

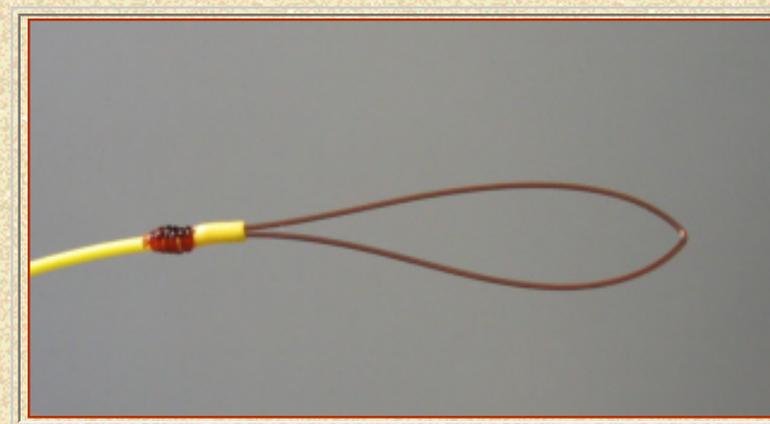
- Places to Fish
- Fishy Photos
- Tight Lines
- The Fly Box
- Fishing Knots
- Fishing Books
- Salmon Recipes
- Fishy Links

About this site

- Site Map
- Contact
- Testimonials
- How to Order

FISHING KNOTS

Basic fly fishing knots for all situations - illustrated instructions on how to tie some of the best and most popular fishing knots, fly fishing knots in particular, linking reel to backing to fly line to leader to fly.

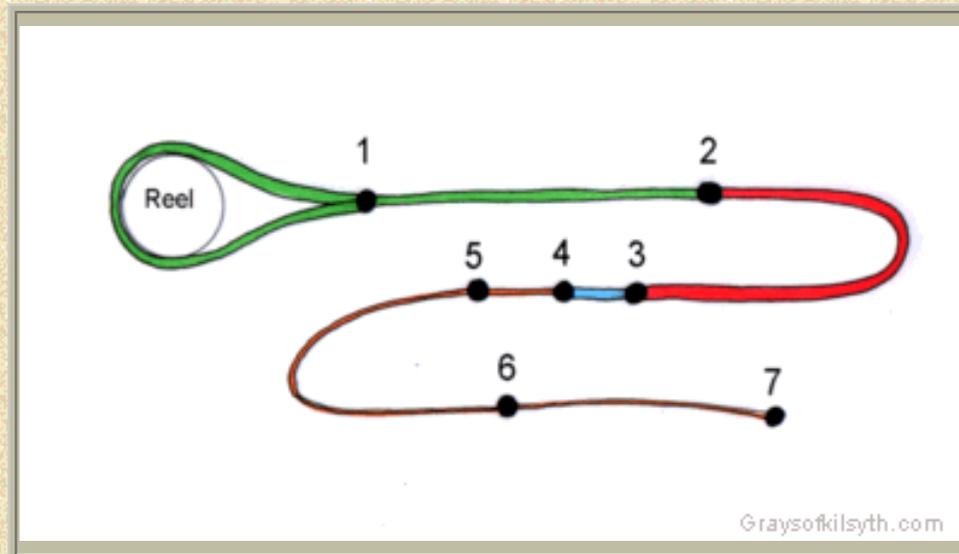


A number of the most reliable fly fishing knots are illustrated below. These are the fishing knots I use in my salmon, trout and sea trout fly fishing. These knots are simple, strong and reliable and include some of the most popular fly fishing knots in use today, such as the Perfection Loop and the Water Knot, as well as one or two not so well known knots. For those who like to attach their leader to the fly line by a loop-to-loop connection, the monofilament loop ([Gray's Loop](#)), shown above, is a simple, neat, strong, and durable alternative to the braided loop.

FLY FISHING KNOTS

These images may take a minute or two to load

REEL > BACKING LINE > FLY LINE > LEADER > DROPPER > FLY



1 - SLIP KNOT

2 - CONstriction KNOT

3 - GRAY'S LOOP

4 - LOOP to LOOP

5 - PERFECTION LOOP

6 - WATER KNOT

7 - SLIP KNOT

Quick Links

[fishing books](#)

[salmon flies](#)

[trout flies](#)

[sea trout flies](#)

[needle flies](#)

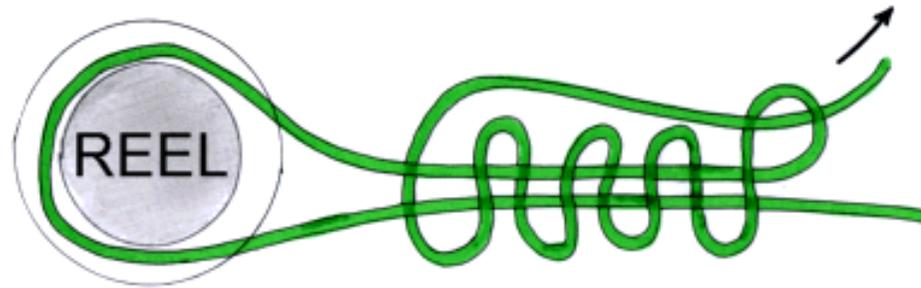
FLY FISHING KNOTS No 1

SLIP KNOT - Backing to reel

SLIP KNOT

A reliable knot for attaching backing line to the reel. For added security, take the backing round the reel drum twice before tying the knot. After pulling the slip knot tight, trim the loose end but not too closely.

To advertise in this space click [here](#)



Graysofkilysyth.com

FLY FISHING KNOTS No 2

CONSTRUCTION KNOT - Backing to Fly line

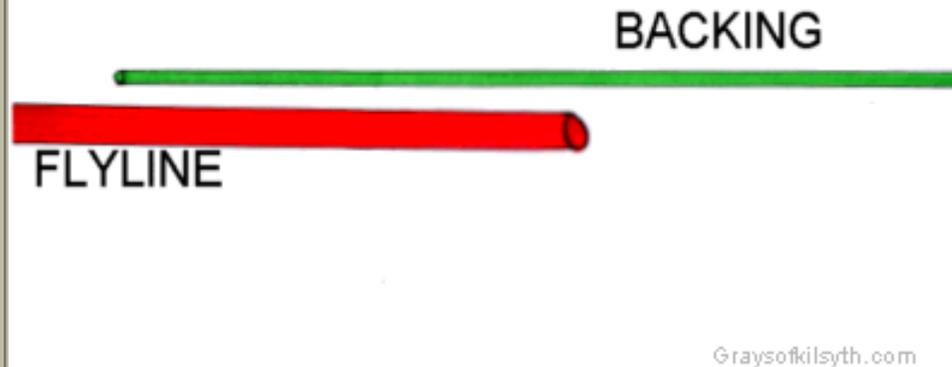
CONSTRUCTION KNOT

This knot is suitable for attaching nylon monofilament, dacron, braided terylene or twisted nylon backing to a traditional PVC coated, terylene core fly line. It is not suitable for some modern lines with kevlar or monofilament cores. Nor should it be used with hollow braided nylon backing.

1 Overlap the fly line and backing line by around 12 inches.

2 Fold the end of the backing line over itself and the fly line to form a loop and grip the

1

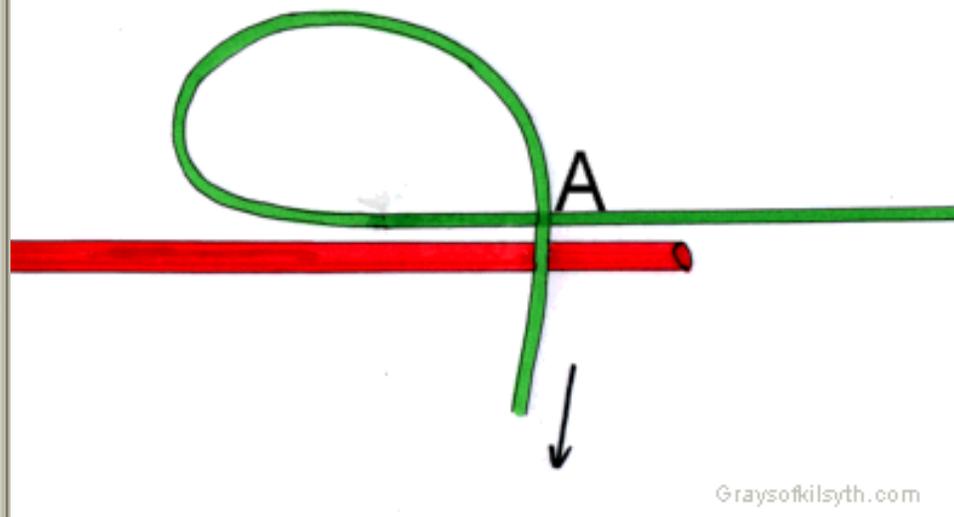


point of overlap (A) firmly between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand.

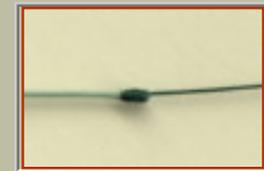
3 Take the end of the backing through the loop 5 or 6 times.

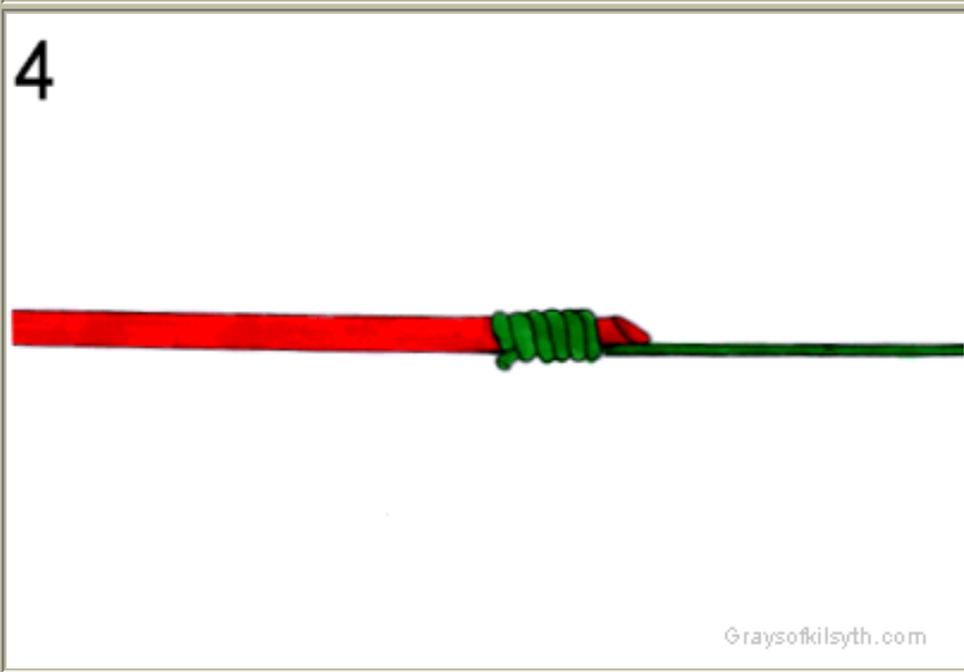
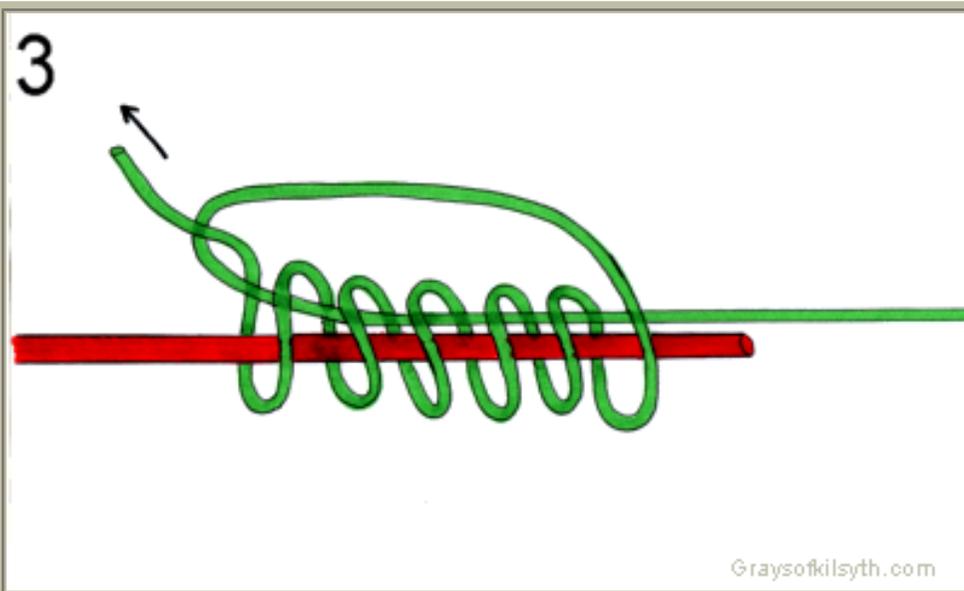
4 Carefully draw the knot together while sliding the whole knot towards the end of the fly line. With the turns of the knot touching, pull steadily on both ends of the backing until the knot grips the fly line tightly. Check the security of the knot by pulling the backing and fly line firmly in opposite directions. When satisfied, trim the ends closely.

2



[CLICK TO ENLARGE](#)

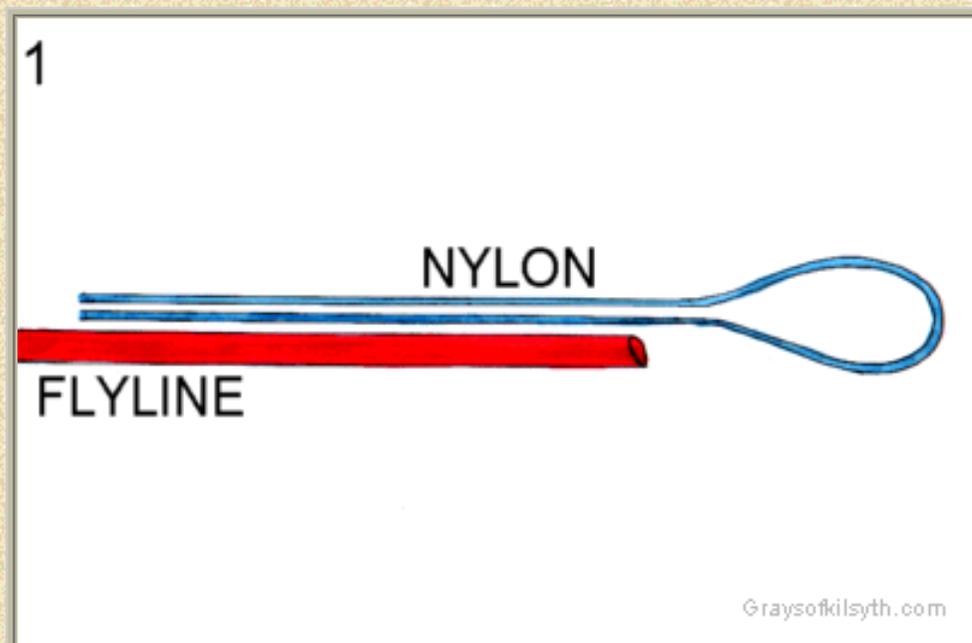




FLY FISHING KNOTS No 3

GRAY'S LOOP - Fly line Butt Loop

See also Needle knot version of [GRAY'S LOOP](#) - tying method with photographs.

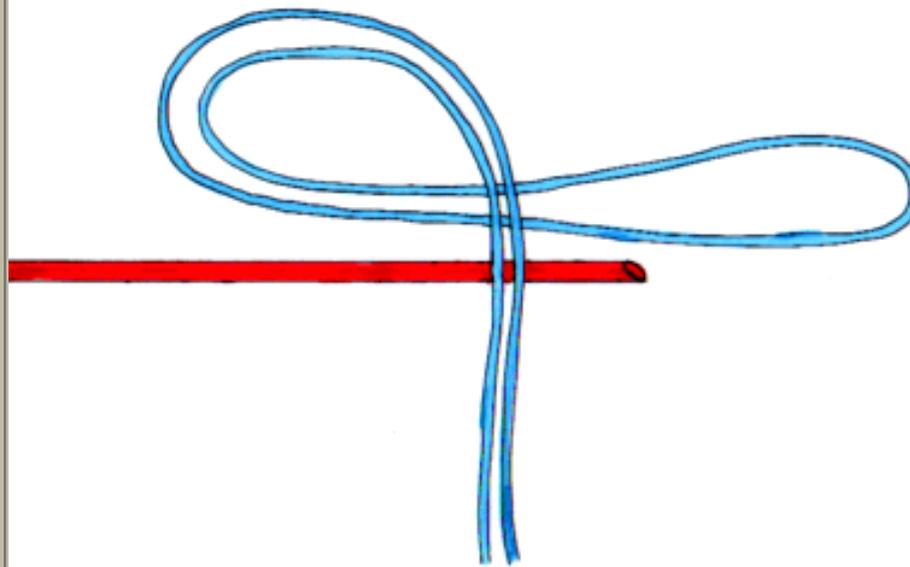


GRAY'S LOOP

A version of the Constriction knot for attaching a semi-permanent loop of nylon monofilament to the end of a traditional PVC coated, terylene core flyline to facilitate a loop to loop connection with the leader. Such a loop might last a whole season.

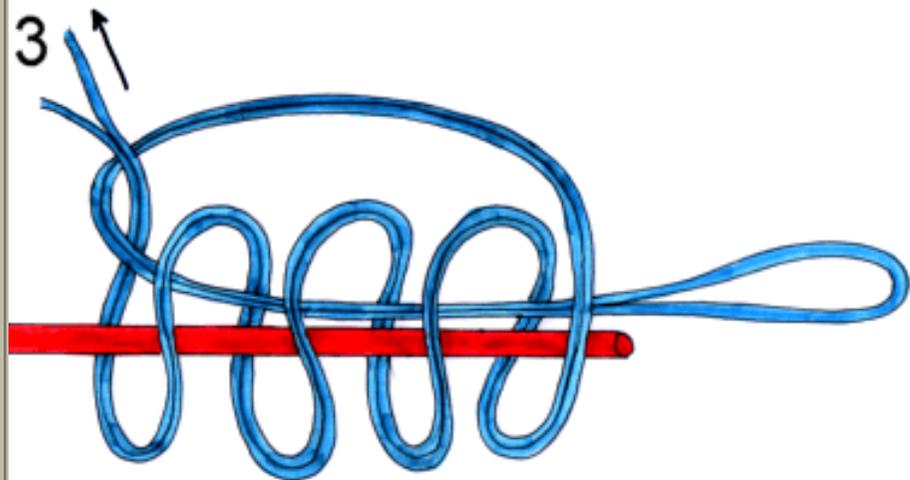
Follow the same procedure as for the Constriction knot, but with a doubled length of monofilament nylon. Starting with a length of about 18 inches [half a metre] of nylon makes it easier to pull the knot tight. Also start with as small a loop as possible, held between the right thumb and forefinger [figure 1], if you want to create a small loop [although a loop of anything up to around three inches long works fine]. Use a minimum of three turns. Carefully draw the knot together while sliding the whole knot towards the end of the fly line. With the turns of the knot touching, pull steadily on both ends until the knot grips the fly line tightly. Check the security of the knot by pulling steadily with a finger in the loop. When satisfied, trim the ends closely. The strength of the nylon will vary with the weight of fly line and breaking strain of

2



Graysofkilsyth.com

3



Graysofkilsyth.com

leader. As a guide I use the following :

FLY LINE #	LEADER b.s.	LOOP b.s.
5	3 - 5 lbs	10 lbs
6	4 - 6 lbs	12 lbs
7	6 - 8 lbs	12 lbs
8	8 - 12 lbs	15 lbs
9	10 - 12 lbs	15 lbs
10	12 - 15 lbs	20 lbs

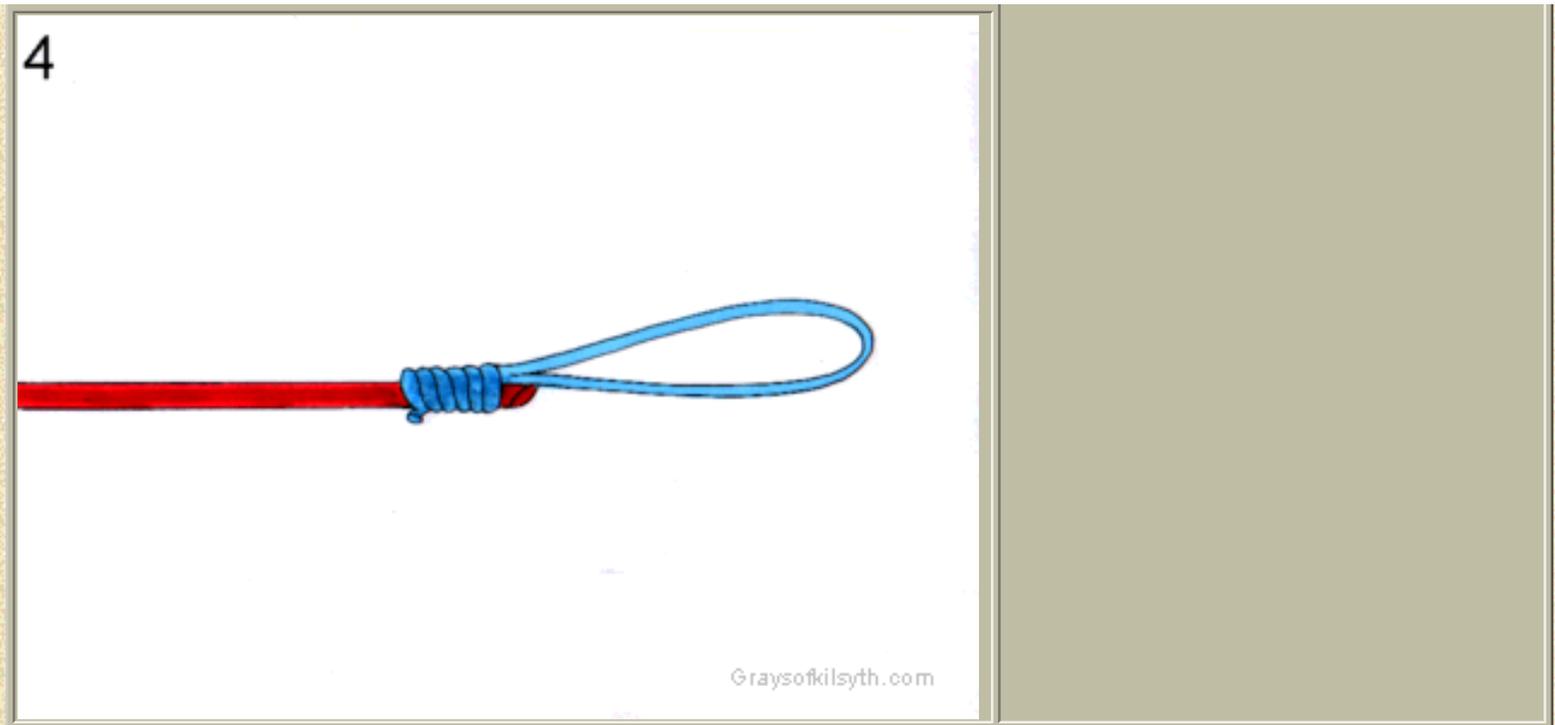
1 kilogram = 2.2 lbs

This knot is not suitable for fly lines with a kevlar or monofilament core.

For a tidier and even more secure version of Gray's Loop, the knot may be tied using a needle, as in the Needle Knot . For full illustrated instructions on the tying method, see [Gray's Loop](#)

CLICK TO ENLARGE

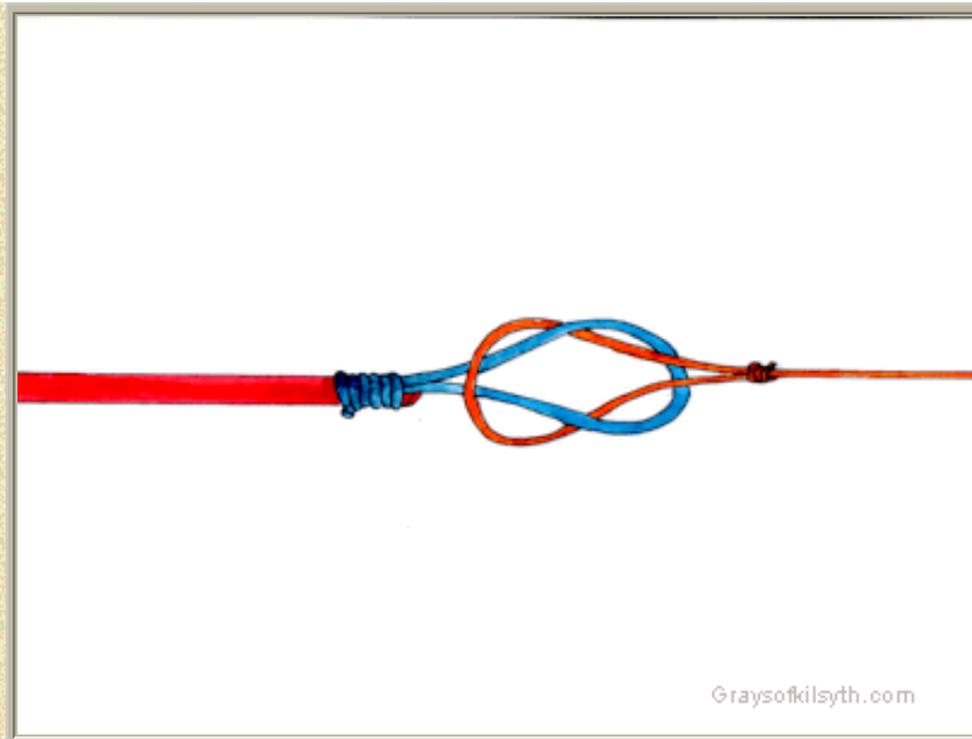




Needle knot version of [GRAY'S LOOP](#)

FLY FISHING KNOTS No 4

LOOP TO LOOP - Butt Loop to Leader



©graysofkilsyth.com

LOOP TO LOOP

A convenient method of attaching a leader to the fly line, avoiding wear and tear on the butt loop.

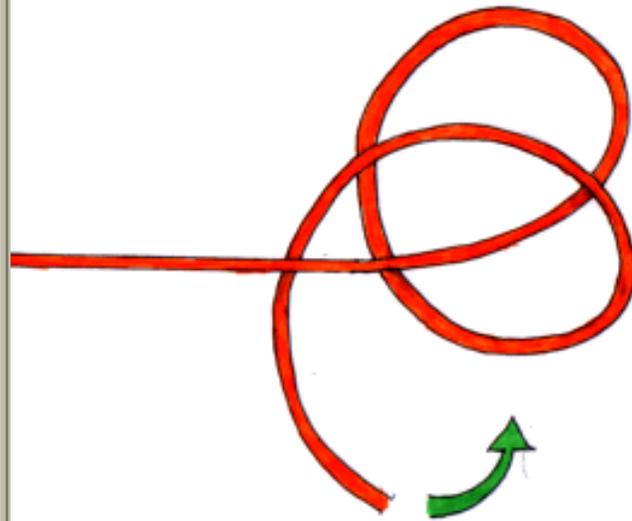
CLICK TO ENLARGE



FLY FISHING KNOTS No 5

PERFECTION LOOP - Leader (or cast) Loop

1



©graysofkilsyth.com

PERFECTION LOOP

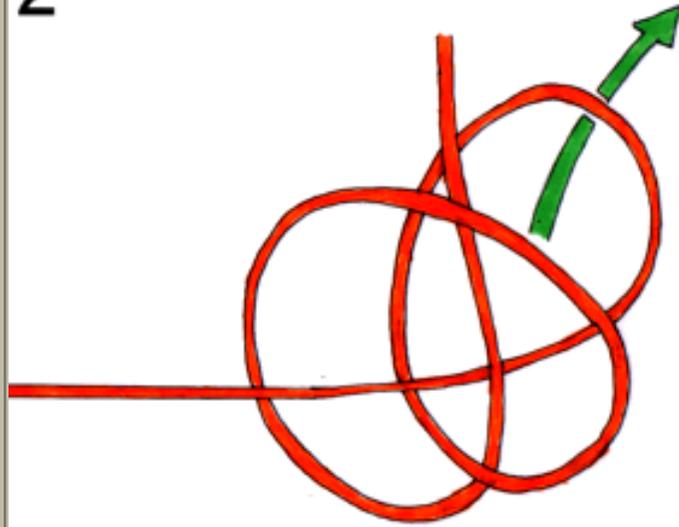
A reliable leader loop which lies in line with the leader. The loose end can be trimmed very close to the knot. Easier to tie than it looks.

Use the thumb and forefinger of the left hand to grip the knot while manipulating the loop with the right hand.

[CLICK TO ENLARGE](#)

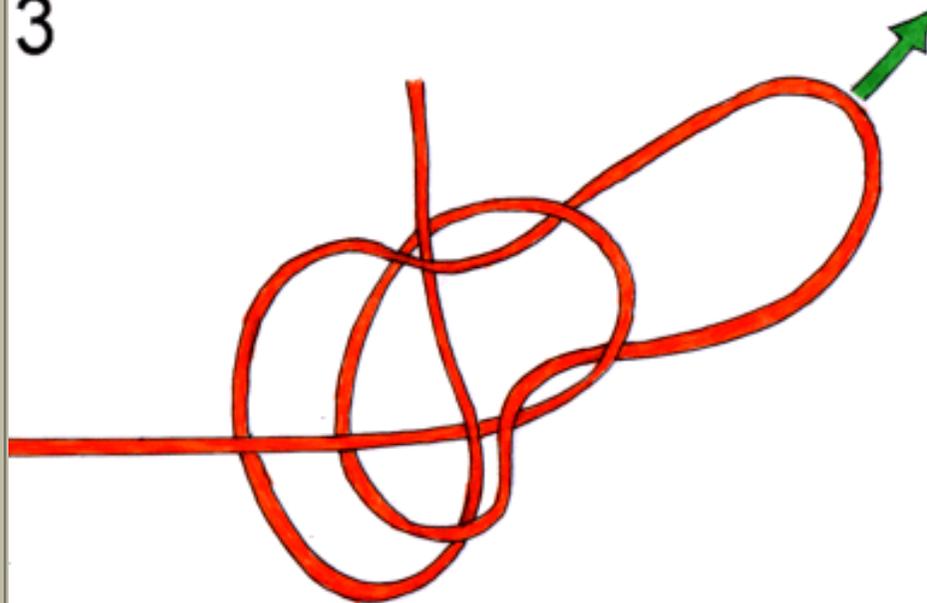


2



Graysofkilsyth.com

3



Graysofkilsyth.com

4



Graysofkilsyth.com

FLY FISHING KNOTS No 6

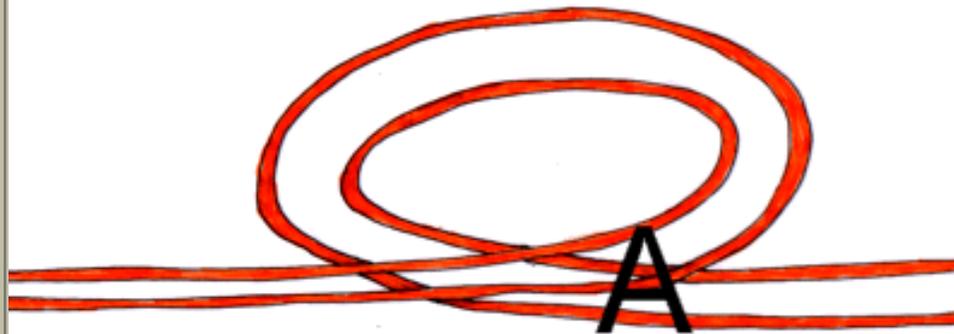
WATER KNOT - Dropper Knot

1



Graysofkilsyth.com

2



Graysofkilsyth.com

WATER KNOT

A good dropper knot. Stronger, more reliable and easier to tie than the blood knot. Although the typical advice is for three turns, I often use only two turns and the resultant knot seems quite reliable. Note that the length used for the dropper should be the one pointing away from the reel.

1 With the "reel end" to your right, cut the leader at the point where the dropper is required and overlap the ends by about 10 inches, depending on the length of dropper .

2 Form an overhand loop with the doubled nylon and grip firmly at point "A" with the right thumb and forefinger.

3 With the left hand, pull the dropper length along with the whole lower section of the leader through the loop at least twice.

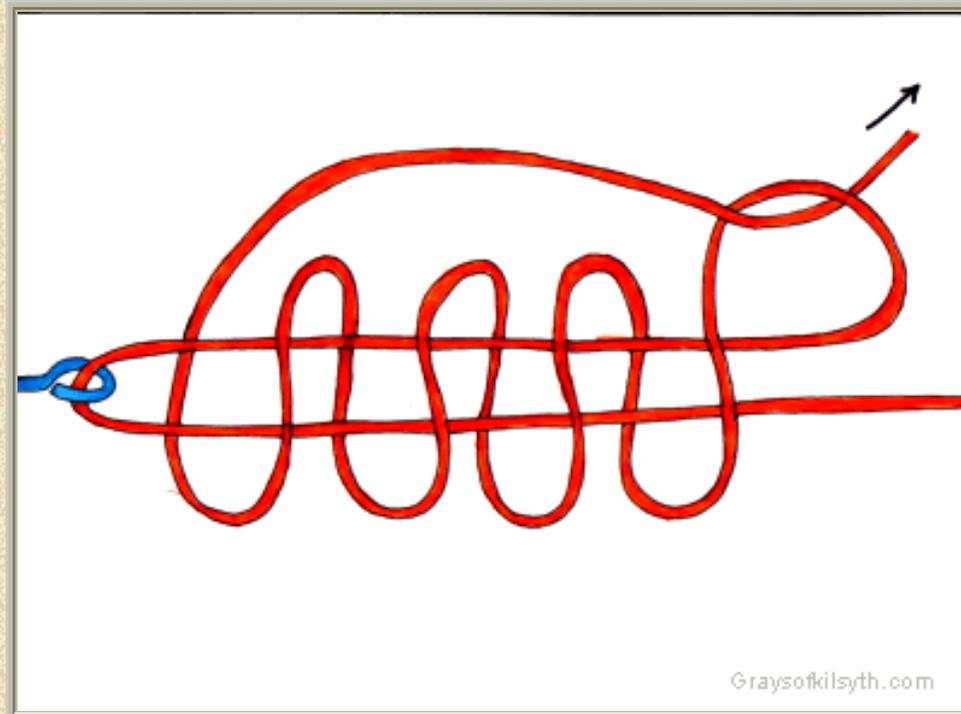
4 Moisten, draw tight and trim the end which points towards the reel.

CLICK TO ENLARGE



FLY FISHING KNOTS No 7

SLIP KNOT - Fly or Hook connection



SLIP KNOT

An alternative to the half - blood knot which has served me well for over thirty years. Similar to the Grinner knot. Tighten well and don't trim too close to the hook.

[CLICK TO ENLARGE](#)

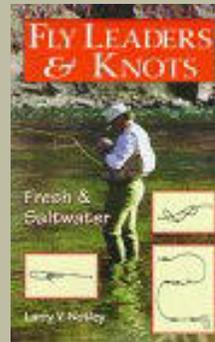


SAFETY

Always wear effective head and eye protection when fly fishing.

BOOKS ON FISHING KNOTS

These books on Fishing Knots are normally available at Amazon

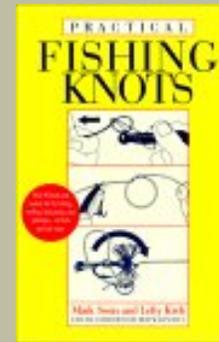


"Fly Leaders and Knots"

Larry V. Notley

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.com

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.co.uk

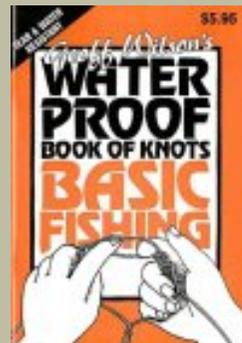


"Practical Fishing Knots"

M. Sosin and L. Kreh

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.com

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.co.uk

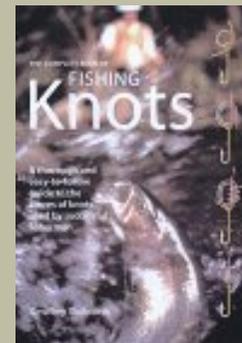


"Waterproof Book of Knots"

Geoff Wilson

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.com

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.co.uk



"The Complete Book of Fishing Knots"

Geoffrey Budworth

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.com

[Buy it](#) on Amazon.co.uk

Find more books on fishing knots and other fishing topics [here](#)

or, for those in the UK, [here](#)

[Back to top of page](#)

[[Home](#)] [[Salmon Flies](#)] [[Trout Flies](#)] [[Sea Trout Flies](#)] [[Boxed Salmon Flies](#)] [[Boxed Trout Flies](#)] [[Boxed Sea Trout Flies](#)] [[Needle Flies](#)]
[[Sidelines](#)] [[Places to Fish](#)] [[Fishy Photos](#)] [[Tight Lines](#)] [[The Fly Box](#)] [[Fishing Knots](#)] [[A Good Read](#)] [[Salmon Recipes](#)] [[Fishing Links](#)]
[[Site Map](#)] [[Contact Information](#)] [[Testimonials](#)] [[How to Order](#)]

Send mail to john@graysofkilsyth.com with questions or comments about this web site.

Copyright © 2001 Grays of Kilsyth

Last modified: June 22, 2005

