

Hemostat Knot Guide

Clinch • Davy • Surgeon's — tied fast, cold-finger friendly

Central Oregon
Fly Fishing Vest Card

THE CORE MOVE: Close the hemostat tips, wrap your tag end around them the right number of turns, then use the jaws to pull the tag end back through the loop(s). Wet every knot with saliva or water before you cinch it tight — friction burns weaken line.

CLINCH KNOT

1

Line to hook / fly eye

- 1 Pass tippet through the hook eye, leaving a 4–6" tag end.
- 2 Close your hemostat jaws and lay them alongside the tag end, parallel to the standing line.
- 3 Wrap the tag end around the standing line AND the hemostat tips 5–6 times, working back toward the eye.
- 4 Feed the tag end into the hemostat's jaw tips (the same small gap by the hinge).
- 5 Open the jaws slightly to grip just the tag end, then slide the whole hemostat back out through the coils.
- 6 Wet the knot, then pull the standing line and tag end to snug the coils, sliding them down to the eye.

Best for: general fly-to-tippet on hooks size 12 and larger.

DAVY KNOT

2

Fast fly attachment, small flies

- 1 Pass tippet through the hook eye, leaving only a short 2–3" tag end.
- 2 Form a simple overhand loop with the tag end around the standing line (do not tighten).
- 3 Use the closed hemostat tips to reach through the loop and pinch the tag end.
- 4 Pull the tag end back through the loop with the hemostats — this creates a second, smaller loop.
- 5 Hold the fly and standing line; slide the loop down against the hook eye.
- 6 Wet and cinch down slowly and evenly so the knot seats neatly against the eye.
- 7 Trim the tag end to about 1/8".

Best for: small flies (#16–#24) and quick re-ties — fewer wraps, less bulk.

SURGEON'S KNOT

3

Joining leader to tippet

- 1 Overlap the leader and tippet ends by 6–8", running parallel in opposite directions.
- 2 Using the two lines as one, form a single loop, holding it open with your fingers.
- 3 Slip the closed hemostat tips through the loop to grip both tag ends together.
- 4 Pull both tag ends through the loop twice (a double surgeon's) or three times (triple, for slicker lines).
- 5 Moisten the whole knot thoroughly before tightening.
- 6 Pull all four ends (two standing, two tag) evenly and slowly to seat the coils.
- 7 Trim both tag ends close to the knot.

Best for: joining sections of unequal diameter — leader-to-tippet or repairing a break-off.

QUICK RULES FOR ALL THREE:

Practice each knot 5–10 times at home before relying on it on the water.

- Always WET the knot before final cinch — dry friction weakens tippet by 10–20%.
- Pull slowly and evenly — a fast yank can bind the coils unevenly and cut strength.
- Trim tag ends close (1/16–1/8") — long tags catch weeds and spook fish.
- Retie after landing a fish or snagging bottom — nicked line breaks under pressure, not at the knot.