

DOING THE DOUBLE
IN BOTH LIGHT AND HEAVY tackle fishing, double lines make the transition from main line to leader stronger and more dependable. When rigging a rod to pitch live baits for sailfish, for instance, double 20-pound connects better to 60-pound fluorocarbon than a single strand of 20. The same is true when connecting to snap swivels or wind-on leaders. The double line gives you a little extra purchase on the heavier line or terminal gear, preventing slippage — and ultimately break-offs. Regardless of what type of knot or line you are using, it's always important to lubricate the knot with saliva or water before tightening, preventing weakening related to heat-causing friction.

The Bimini Twist

THE GRAND DAME OF KNOTS, the Bimini is arguably one of the most popular offshore knots in existence. One of the few true 100-percent knots, it's considered by many to be extremely difficult to tie. With a little practice, though, it's possible to master in no time.

STEP 1: Pull off enough line to make the desired length of double line. Grasping the tag and the main line in one hand, slip the other hand through the resulting loop. Twist the loop 20 times.

STEP 2: Pass the loop over your knee. Grasp the main line with one hand and the tag with the other. Slowly and evenly spread the two apart, forcing the twists downward. Continue until the intersection of the two lines touches your knee and the knot stops compacting.

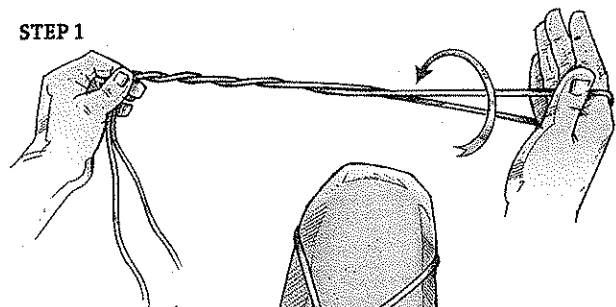
STEP 3: Insert your index finger into the intersection and bring the hand holding the tag forward until the twist "breaks" and starts wrapping over itself toward the loop. This causes the tag end to start rolling around the twists. The first two turns should be loosely spiraled, and the remaining turns should be close together.

STEP 4: Keep tension on the main line, and creep your left hand up so you can trap the wraps by pinching them. Using your right hand, make a half-hitch around one leg and then the other. This step is critical, as it splits the loop and makes sure both legs pull evenly under pressure.

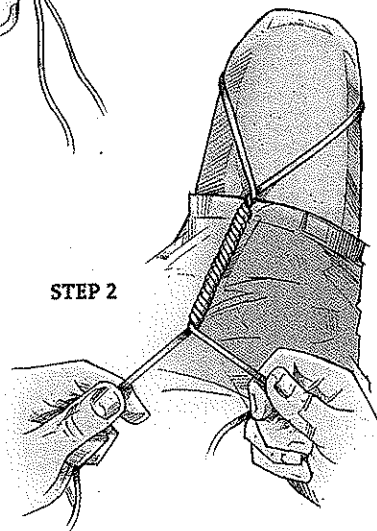
STEP 5: With the tag end, tie a reverse, three-turn uni-knot.

STEP 6: Lubricate the finished knot and slowly and firmly snug, then trim the tag.

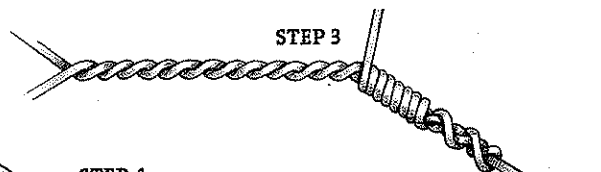
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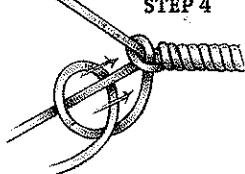
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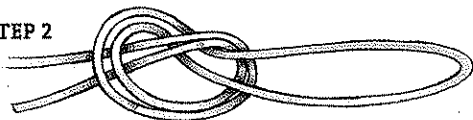


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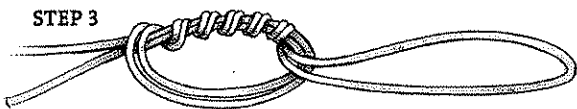
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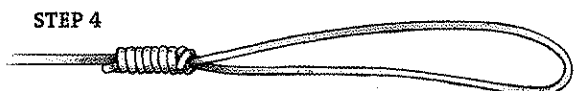
STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



The Triple Surgeon's Knot

STILL A LITTLE INTIMIDATED by the Bimini Twist? No worries. A great alternative (and one of my personal favorites) is the Triple Surgeon's knot. Simple and fast, it's a good choice when you need longer double lines because it doesn't require two people, as the Bimini often does. The compact silhouette of this knot makes it a favorite when fly-lining baits or jigging — anytime the knot needs to travel smoothly through the guides.

STEP 1: Pull enough line off to make the desired length of double line. Double over, forming a loop.

STEP 2: Pinch the main line and tag ends between your thumb and forefinger; beginning at that point, tie an overhand knot.

STEP 3: Repeat Step 2 five more times, trying to keep each successive wrap close to the preceding turn, which helps when tightening the knot.

STEP 4: Grasp the tag end and the main line with one hand and the loop with the other; lubricate and pull down with steady, even pressure. Trim.

ON THE LINE
ONCE YOU'VE GOT THE DOUBLE
 line rigged, it's often a question

of how to make the connection to your leader. Whether casting live baits to dolphin

and sailfish on spinning and conventional outfits or deep-jigging with braided line,

nothing beats knots. Here are two low-profile connections that will serve you well.

The No-Name Knot

ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE BRISTOL, Yucatan or Mexican Mate's knot, the No-Name is quick and dirty. Used in conjunction with a Bimini or Triple Surgeon's, you'll be hard-pressed to find a slicker-traveling connection.

STEP 1: Take about 10 inches of leader and place it through the loop formed by your double line.

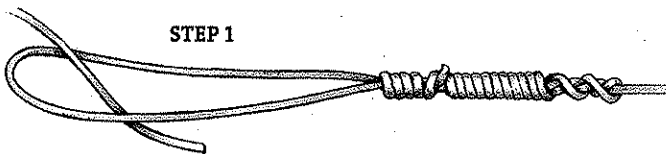
STEP 2: Pinch the leader and double line with your thumb and index

finger and wrap the leader up the double line five to seven times.

STEP 3: Bring the tag end back down and then place it through the loop formed by the double line, exiting on the opposite side from where the leader entered the double line.

STEP 4: Lubricate and grasp the double line and leader, and snug firmly. The tag end should stick out at a 90-degree angle from the leader. Trim the tag end closely.

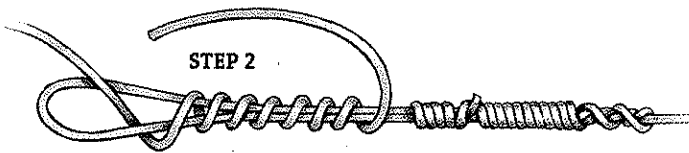
STEP 1



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STEP 2



STEP 4



Uni-to-Uni

THIS IS A GREAT KNOT for making connections; many offshore anglers use it to connect topshots to backing on conventional reels, and it is also ideal for connecting leader material to braided main line. The Uni-Knot is an old standard for

terminal connections, so if you've mastered that version, this one is a snap.

STEP 1: Lay the tag ends of each line next to each other, in opposing directions. With the tag end of the main line, form a loop.

STEP 2: Take the tag end and

wrap around the leader and through the main line loop. Repeat five times (a total of six).

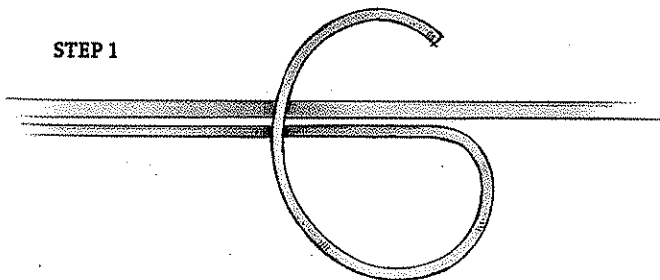
STEP 3: Lubricate and snug the knot into position (be careful not to tighten too much).

STEP 4: Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the tag end of the leader

material. With leader heavier than 40-pound, decrease the number of turns to four.

STEP 5: Pull on the standing portions of each line, sliding the two knots together. Snug them into place with even pressure on all four sides, and trim.

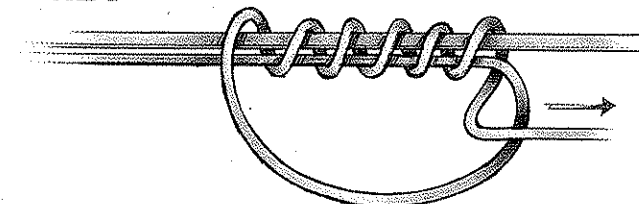
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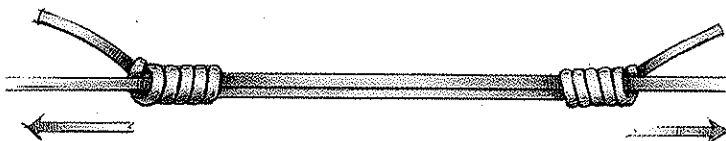
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STEP 4



STEP 5

