

THE BITTER END

NOW WE'VE COME TO THE END — literally. It's time to finish off with the hook or artificial of your choice. There are a number of options in this area, but the Fast Snell and Non-Slip Loop cover almost any fishing situation that might arise. They're simple, quick and easy to master.

Fast Snell

A NUMBER OF FISHERMEN (particularly when using live or dead bait with circle hooks) like to have a direct, straight connection to the hook. There's no better way to accomplish this than by using this Fast Snell — actually a variation of the Fast Nail Knot.

STEP 1: Insert the tag end through the hook's upturned eye (or parallel to the shank if it features a straight eye). Form a loop with the tag trailing off the back of the hook.

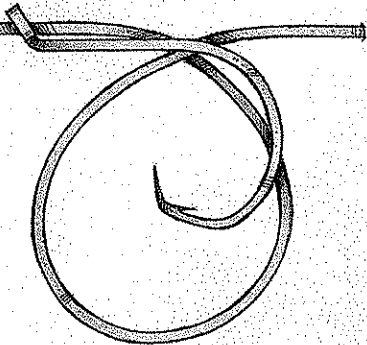
STEP 2: Take the end of the loop near the bend of the hook and wrap around the shank and tag end once.

STEP 3: Continue wrapping forward five more times, passing the bend of the hook and the tag through the loop with each turn. Lay the wraps as closely together as possible.

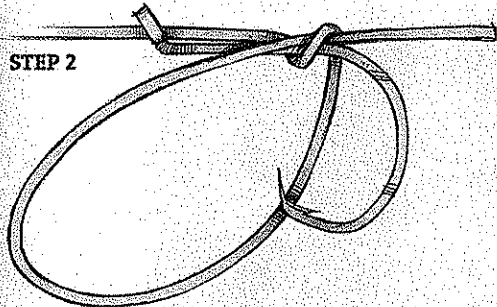
STEP 4: Slowly pull the tag end and close the snell around the hook shank, making sure to clear the hook point. Do not overtighten.

STEP 5: Pull the main line to snug the knot up against the hook eye. Once in position, tighten by applying pressure to both the tag and main line, and trim.

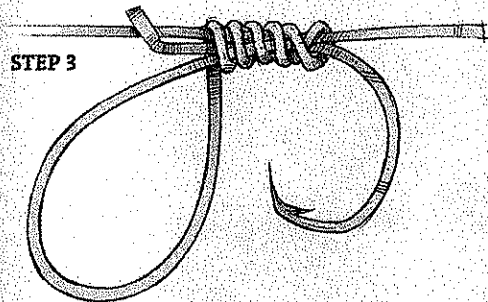
STEP 1



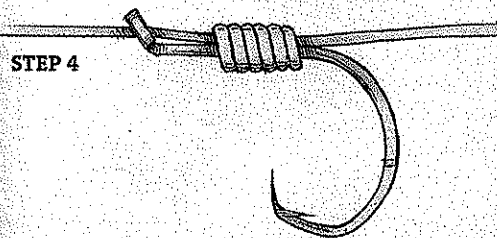
STEP 2



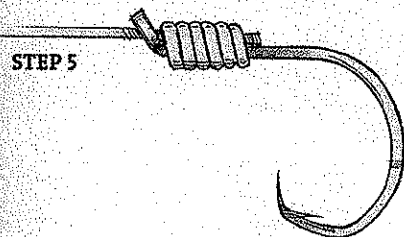
STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



The Non-Slip Loop

WHEN BOTTOM FISHING, jigging or using plugs and other artificials, a knot that cinches down negates strike-triggering action. For that reason, it's a good idea to have at least one loop knot in the arsenal to account for this. This is my favorite because it lets you predetermine the size of the resulting loop.

STEP 1: Form an overhand knot in the end of your leader, leaving a tag about 6 inches in length.

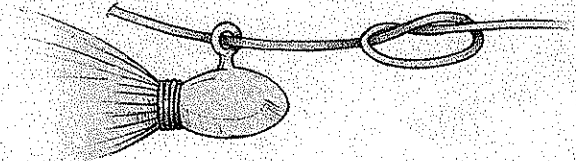
STEP 2: Pass the tag through the eye of the hook and then back through the overhand knot in the same direction that the line leaves the knot.

STEP 3: Adjust the size of the loops; for the overhand, draw down by pulling the main line. To adjust the size of the terminal loop, pull on the tag.

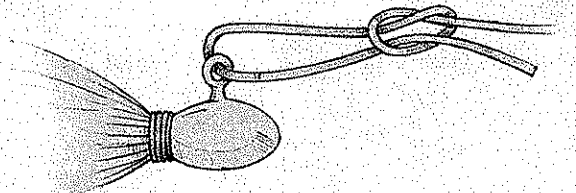
STEP 4: Make five turns with the tag end around the main line and then return the tag through the center of the overhand knot.

STEP 5: Lubricate and snug the knot by pulling on the tag end. Trim. The tag end will face in line with the main line, making it virtually weedproof. ~

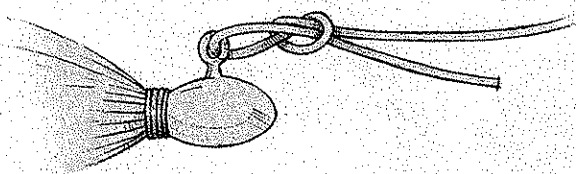
STEP 1



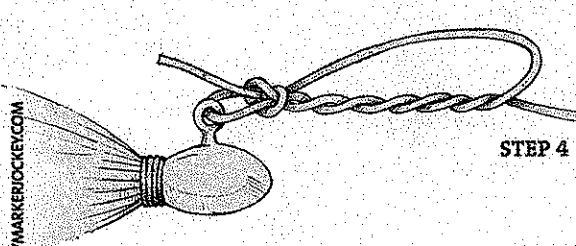
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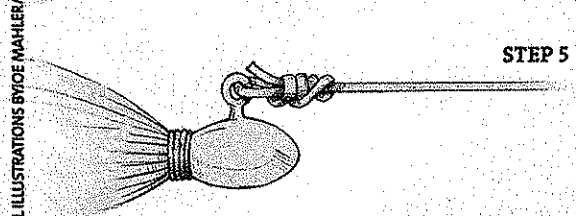
STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



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