

# DIY: LEARN HOW TO TIE FISHING KNOTS

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Learning how to tie good fishing knots is an important step for beginning anglers. The knot is what holds the hook on the line and a poorly tied knot will lead to missed opportunities to hook and land fish.

More fish are lost to poorly tied knots than any other equipment failure.

There are many online knot-tying instructional videos but here is one site dedicated to tying knots. Animatedknots.com goes step by step in illustrating various knots, including fishing knots. You do not need to know all the knots. Knowing how to tie the following fishing knots is all you need to be a successful beginning angler.

1. Improved Clinch Knot
2. Perfection Loop
3. Uni - Knot

## MATERIAL NEEDED:

1. One long shoelace
2. One small Key Ring Carabiner
3. One computer / cell phone to log onto <https://www.animatedknots.com>

Illustration # 1 – Key Ring Carabiner



## PROCEDURE:

1. Get all your material ready
2. Log onto **animatedknots.com**
  - a. Choose the tab **“Knots by Activity”** and scroll down and select **“Fishing Knots.”**
  - b. Scroll down until you find the **“Improved Clinch Knot,”** and click the picture.
  - c. The animated knot will then slowly demonstrate how the knot is tied. Watch how the knot is tied at least twice before you try tying the knot yourself, so you can see the intricate details.
  - d. Follow the directions for tying the knot. You can pause, fast forward or rewind the training video as you learn to tie the knot.
  - e. Tie the Improved Clinch Knot several times until you can tie it without the video.

## **USE A REAL FISHING HOOK AND MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE TO PRACTICE**

Once you have learned how to tie the Improved Clinch Knot you can now move on to learning how to do it with a real fishing hook and line.

### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. One **BARBLESS HOOK**. A size 6 hook work well. It is big enough to work with but is a size of hook you can use to fish for many species of fish.

A few things to consider:

- Barbless hooks are best for young kids learning how to tie hooks as well as to fish with. Barbless hooks are easier to take out of clothes and skin than barbed hooks and will save you a trip to the emergency room!
- If you don't have barbless hooks use a pair of needle-nose pliers to crimp, or flatten, the barb on the hook you will use. You can also dull the hook point before kids practice with it.

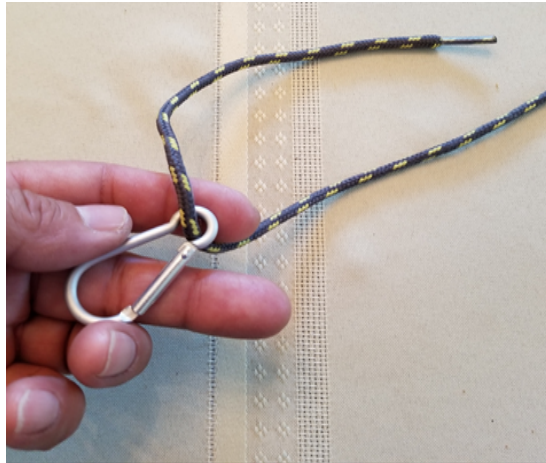
2. **FISHING LINE**. Ten-pound fishing line works well for beginners because the line is thicker and easier for beginners to work with but six- or eight-pound line will do.

### **PROCEDURE:**

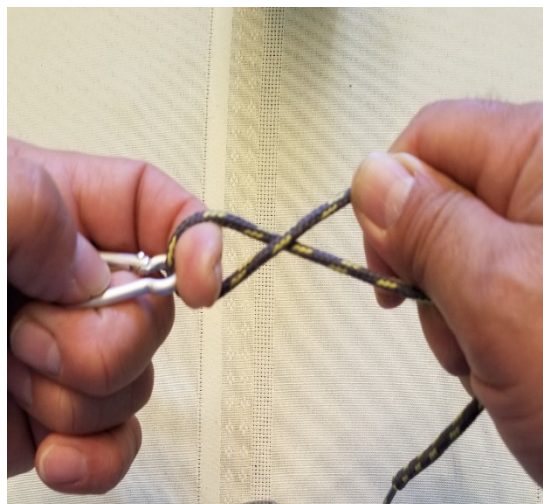
1. Get your barbless hook and 24 inches of fishing line ready.
2. Log into [animatedknots.com](http://animatedknots.com) and follow the instructions for tying an Improved Clinch Knot using your hook and fishing line.
3. Cut the hook off with scissors and repeat the process a few times until you can tie a good knot. Remember, the more you practice the better you will get!

## STEPS FOR PRACTICING TYING AN IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT:

1. Take the carabiner in one hand and the line in the other and run it through the carabiner.



2. Hold the carabiner firmly in place with your index finger. This controls the carabiner and forms a nice loop to run your line through. Give yourself several inches of line at the end and form an X.



3. Make four to five wraps around the main line with the tag end. Keep a firm hold on the carabiner while doing your wraps. Keeping firm control of a hook will prevent you from poking yourself!



4. Take your finger out of the loop and take the tag end of the line and run it through the loop. This will make a second larger loop. Hold your wraps in place with your other hand.



5. Pull the tag end of the line through the second bigger loop while still holding your wraps firmly with the other hand.



6. Pull the tag end of the line with one hand and the main line with the other hand and tighten the knot. Then, hold the hook firmly and pull on the main line and cinch your knot. Cut off the remaining tag end of the line and you are done!

NOTE: Make sure to wet your monofilament line with saliva to prevent the line from becoming weak from the heat generated by tightening the monofilament line up!

