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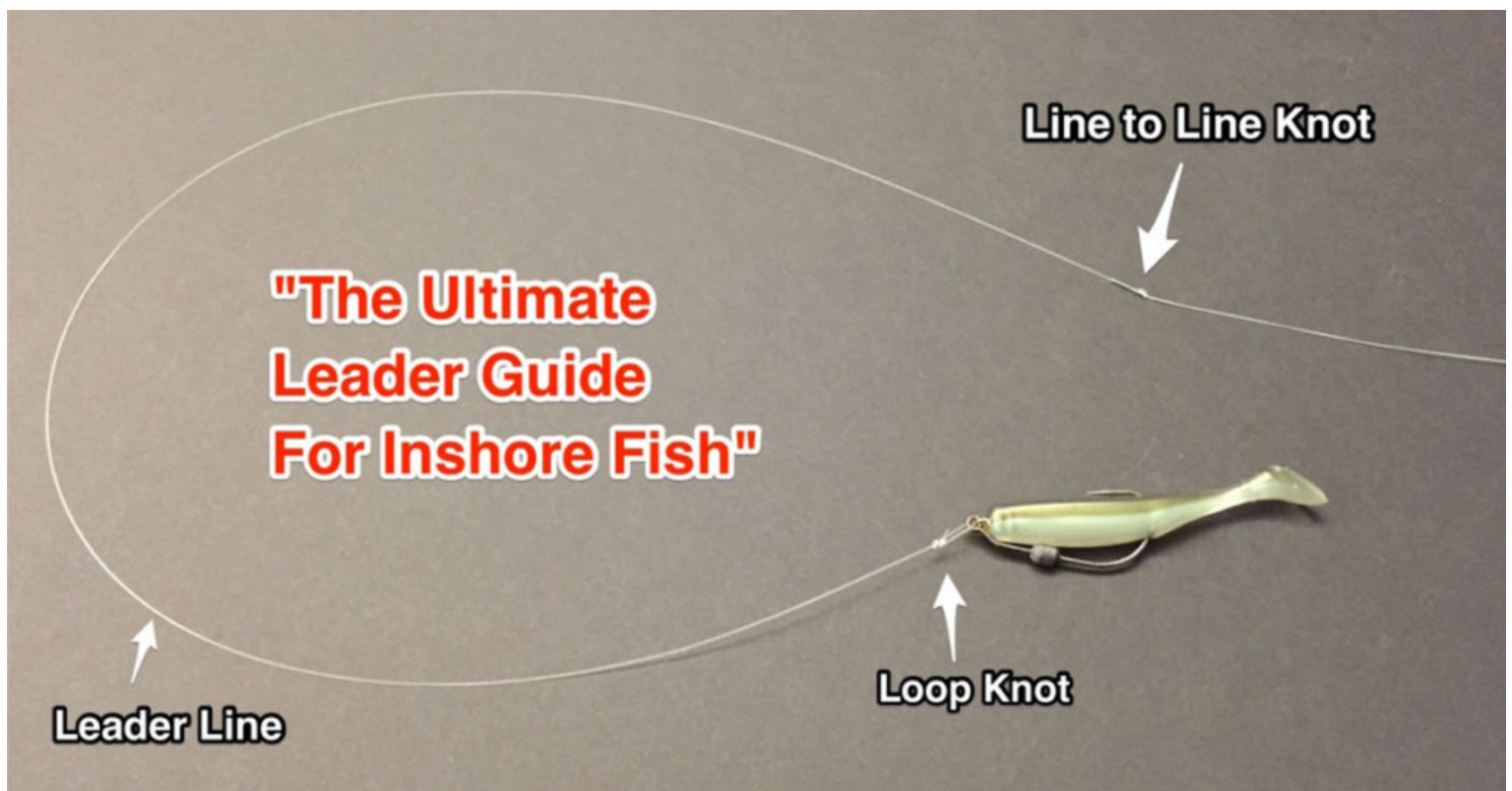
How To Tie The Perfect Fishing Leader for Snook, Redfish, and Seatrout

Published by Luke Simonds under [Fishing Knots](https://www.saltstrong.com/article_categories/fishing-knots/) (https://www.saltstrong.com/article_categories/fishing-knots/), [Fishing Tips](https://www.saltstrong.com/article_categories/fishing-tips/) (https://www.saltstrong.com/article_categories/fishing-tips/), [Inshore Fishing](https://www.saltstrong.com/article_categories/inshore-fishing/) (https://www.saltstrong.com/article_categories/inshore-fishing/)

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FACT: A fishing leader can make or break you when it comes to landing the biggest fish of the day.

Having a good leader line with strong knots is absolutely essential for inshore anglers who want to land big snook, redfish, trout, tarpon, etc.

However, many inshore anglers simply have never been taught how to make their own leaders, or in many cases, they were taught an inferior way to tie leaders... I know this because many questions have come in relating to tying leaders for snook, redfish, and seatrout in the last couple of months.

I know this because many questions have come in relating to tying leaders for snook, redfish, and seatrout in the last couple of months.

So this article will focus on how to tie the best fishing leader for inshore fish...

I will briefly address the basics of fishing leaders and then show the best knots that have proven to outperform the others for the specific connections needed in a proper leader system.

Let's get started with the basics first:

What is a Leader Line?

The leader is a short strand of strong line (stronger and/or less visible than the main line) that is placed in between the main line in the reel and the hook or lure that an angler is using.



There is no maximum or minimum length for leaders, but they are most often in the 1 to 4 ft range... inshore recommendations discussed below.

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Why Use A Leader For Saltwater Fishing?

A leader is needed for saltwater fishing because it provides an angler with the ability to keep a big, strong, and often toothy fish from biting through the line near the hook/lure while allowing the angler to have a much thinner line in the reel for maximizing casting distance and performance.

In this article, we'll focus the examples to leader assemblies designed to catch big snook, redfish, and seatrout.

What Is Needed To Tie An Inshore Leader?

Fortunately, there is not much equipment that is needed... it mostly involves just knowing how to best put it all together.

Here's what you'll need:

- Main line in spool (10 lb to 20 lb braid)
 - Note: we highly recommend braid because of its better casting performance and stronger breaking strength related to listed strength as compared to mono
- Leader line (20 lb to 40 lb monofilament)
- Lure/Hook (whichever lure/hook you plan to use)
- Pliers/Scissors/Knife to cut line
- [optional] Swivel... if you plan to use a bait that is prone to twisting up your line, then tying a swivel in between your main line and the leader is smart

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How To Tie A Fishing Leader

Many anglers over-complicate their leader lines and some are very intimidated by them... especially when tying line-to-line.

However, the process only consists of 3 steps, and it is quite simple once the knots are learned.

And after a bit of practice, anyone can complete the full assembly quickly even while out on the water in rough seas.

Here are the 3 core steps:

Step 1: Tie Line to Line Knot

The first step in tying a leader is to connect your main line to your leader line...

This is by far the most important aspect of tying a leader line because it will most often be the weakest link in your assembly since the main line is kept light to increase casting performance, while the leader is the heavier of the two lines to withstand the sharp teeth/mouths of many saltwater fish.

For example, even a 50% knot on the hook/lure end of a 30 lb leader is stronger than a 100% knot on a 10 lb main line... (15 lbs vs. 10 lbs).

Here's some "must know" line to line knots for those who use braid and/or mono:

Braid to Mono

This FG Knot won our braid to leader knot contest (<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-fishing-knot-for-braided-line/>) by a considerable margin while also being the thinnest option of tl



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Note: Do not use this knot for a mono to mono connection... it requires braided line making the coils.

Mono to Mono

The Surgeon's Knot (<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/surgeons-knot/>) is one of the strongest and quickest knots out there for mono to mono:



Note: The surgeon's knot can be used to connect braid to mono/fluoro too, but it's best to use 6 wraps if using braid vs. the 3 for mono to mono.

Step 2: Determine Your Leader Length

There is no right or wrong length for a fishing leader. I typically use leaders in the 2 to 4 ft range depending on what type of fishing I'm doing.

I typically use leaders in the 2 to 4 ft range depending on what type of fishing I'm doing.

For instance, I use a shorter leader when fishing with artificial lures because I do not allow my knots to go through my rod guides because the friction from frequent casts will weaken any knot.

For live bait fishing when the cast count is a fraction of artificial, I'll increase the length of my leader by 6 to 12 inches.

So I go with a ~24-inch leader for artificials and a 30+ inch leader when live baiting.

Note: Although I start with a minimum 24-inch leader, I'll, of course, let it get shorter while in use after re-tying due to fish fraying the line or needing to switch lures/baits... I'll often let it get down to 16 to 20 inches depending on water clarity (clear water = longer leader).

Step 3: Tie Lure or Hook to Leader

The final step is to connect your lure or hook to your leader.

Although maximizing the breaking strength here is not nearly as important compared to the line-to-line knot in step 1, it's still, of course, important to have a strong knot.

However, some other factors come into play here that shouldn't be overlooked... especially when fishing with artificials:

- Does the knot maximize lure action?
- Will it snag weeds?

The most important aspect of a leader to lure/hook knot is its ability to allow the bait to have as much action as possible... and to address this factor, I highly recommend using a loop knot because the loop does not constrain the lure/hook nearly as much as a typical knot that hugs the eye.

Much lower on the importance list, but still very important is the knot's ability to avoid snagging floating weeds/debris... because the debris stuck on the knot will significantly decrease the odds of you getting strike.

If you're using a leader that is close to the same breaking strength as your main line and your bait doesn't require much action, then it is smart to use a snug knot because those knots have higher breaking strengths since they generate more friction along the surface area of the hook eye.

See below for the knots that won the respective knot contests:

The Top Loop Knot





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Note: This Kreh loop knot won our [leader to lure loop knot contest](https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-loop-knot-for-fluorocarbon-leader/) (<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-loop-knot-for-fluorocarbon-leader/>) held earlier this year.

The Top Snug Knot



Note: This Orvis knot won our [leader to lure snug knot contest](https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-fishing-knot-leader-to-hook/) (<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-fishing-knot-leader-to-hook/>) held earlier this year.

How To Tie A Swivel Onto A Leader

When fishing with lures like spoons that are prone to cause twists in my line, it is good to tie a swivel in between the main line and the leader line.

This will help decrease the line twists in your line, which will help lessen the chances of getting frustrating wind knots.

Just like before, the most important knot in this setup is the one that connects your main line to the swivel...

Since the FG knot is only for connecting a braided line to a mono leader, a different braid knot is needed.

Braid To Swivel Knot



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Note: This modified uni knot for braid won our [braid to swivel knot contest \(https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-fishing-knot-for-braided-line-swivel-hook-lure/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/best-fishing-knot-for-braided-line-swivel-hook-lure/) we held to evaluate this important connection.

Once this modified uni knot is tied, then use the Orvis knot shown above to connect the swivel to the leader.

If using a mono main line, I like tying the Orvis knot to connect to both sides of the swivel... it's very simple to tie and has a very impressive hold strength. However, the very popular Palomar knot and the Uni knot are both excellent choices as well... they all 3 scored extremely close in our knot strength analysis.

What Size Leader Line Should I Use?

There is no one-size-fits all leader line size for any species... it all depends on water clarity, size of expected fish, amount of structure nearby, etc.

But here is the strength range that I most often recommend:

- Redfish, trout, and flounder on the flats: 20 lb to 25 lb mono leader and 10 lb braid main line is my favorite
- Snook on the flats: 25lb to 30 lb mono leader and 10 lb braid main line
- Snook and redfish in inlets and/or near structure: 40 lb to 60 lb mono leader and 20 lb to 30 lb braid main line depending on size of expected fish
- Tarpon/Cobia on the flats or near inlets: 50 lb to 80 lb mono leader and 20 lb to 40 lb braid/mono main line depending on size of expected fish

Although the 10 lb braid main line seems a bit light for battling big snook and reds on the flats, just keep in mind that the true breaking strength of braid is often much higher than its listed value.

For example, I consistently get a 20 lb to 22 lb line system when using an FG knot to connect my "10 lb" PowerPro braid to a 30 lb fluorocarbon leader... and this 20 lb level is higher than the max drag setting on most inshore spinning reels.

In case you'd like to see the light gear in heavy action... here's a short video of a decent sized tarpon getting landed on my inshore setup:





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What Type of Line Should I Use?

There is an endless amount of options for lines these days, so it's tough to sort through the good vs. the bad.

For the main line, I love **PowerPro** (<http://amzn.to/2eLWkTX>)... click below to see the exact type (most often 10 lb, but go up to 20 and sometimes 30 lb when fishing for big fish near heavy structure):

- **10lb – 300 yds – Green** (<http://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=r3w9HSkXBVQ&offerid=380125.34804&type=2&murl=http%3A%2F%2Ftracking.searchmarketing.com%2Fclick.asp%3Faid%3D500003080000015902>)
- **10 lb – 100 yds – Green** (<http://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=r3w9HSkXBVQ&offerid=380125.34932&type=2&murl=http%3A%2F%2Ftracking.searchmarketing.com%2Fclick.asp%3Faid%3D500003080000298435>)
- **20 lb – 300 yds – Green** (<http://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=r3w9HSkXBVQ&offerid=380125.34808&type=2&murl=http%3A%2F%2Ftracking.searchmarketing.com%2Fclick.asp%3Faid%3D500003080000015900>)

For the leader line, I'm a fan of Seaguar... click below to see links to the specific types that I like best:

- **20 lb test – 25 yds** (<http://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=r3w9HSkXBVQ&offerid=380125.41634&type=2&murl=http%3A%2F%2Ftracking.searchmarketing.com%2Fclick.asp%3Faid%3D500003080000020121>)
- **25 lb test – 25 yds** (<http://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=r3w9HSkXBVQ&offerid=380125.41645&type=2&murl=http%3A%2F%2Ftracking.searchmarketing.com%2Fclick.asp%3Faid%3D500003080000020127>)
- **30 lb test – 25 yds** (<http://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=r3w9HSkXBVQ&offerid=380125.41658&type=2&murl=http%3A%2F%2Ftracking.searchmarketing.com%2Fclick.asp%3Faid%3D500003080000020132>)

Conclusion

When fishing for most saltwater species, it's important to use a fishing leader to increase the odds of landing the biggest fish of the day while also having the ability to effectively cast and present your bait for increased strikes.

And fortunately for you, tying a strong leader doesn't require a lot of fancy equipment.

It simply involves having two different types of line and knowing 2 to 3 different knots.

Play around with the knots to find out which ones give you the best hookup ratios for the type of lines you use.

Any questions on how to tie a leader?

Let me know in the questions.

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P.S. – If you think your angler friends would like this, please **Tag** them or **Share** this with them... Fish On!

Please leave a comment below if you have any questions, or if you think I skipped over anything.

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RICHARD FIORENTINO

([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/richard-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/richard-fiorentino/)

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Member

That FG knot looks really good. Could you also put a dab of crazy glue or nail polish on the knot when finished for a better finish?

REPLY

2 days 2 hours ago



RICHARD FIORENTINO

([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/richard-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/richard-fiorentino/)

<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/richard-fiorentino/>)

Member

When you say "braid to mono", would it also be true with 'braid to flouro'?

REPLY

2 days 2 hours ago



Steve Free

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/steve-free/>)

<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/steve-free/>)

Member

I guess I might try the FG knot although there was a knot I have been using for about 5 years now that I learned from a Florida sportsman mag that has never failed me I make a loop in the leader then take the braid and put it through the loop then wrap the braid around the leader 10 times then holding that end bring the braid and wrap the leader and braid in the loop together 5 more times then pull it snug and trim the ends like I said I don't off hand know what it's called but it has never failed me I also use a polomar to tie the lure on the leader in the Florida sportsman mag they did their own knot tests and the polomar had a 95 percent strength rating now as far as a loop knot I never use it I use what is called a speed clip it's not a swivel but is very strong and makes quick lure changes a breeze unlike having to retie if using the loop knot now for spinnerbaits jigs or any other soft lures I tie directly to the line using the polomar but it's what works that works for me and your idea works for you thanks for the tip 😊

REPLY

27 days 18 hours ago



Jerry

I fish for flounder all the time with 20 lb braid. But it breaks constantly on the hook set. I switched to 30 pound and have had no issues other than shorter casting. Am I the only one who has trouble with braid breaking on hooksets? I don't use a leader and catch a lot of 20" plus fish and a lot of slot redfish.

REPLY

2 months 11 days ago



Steve Free

([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/steve-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/steve-free/)

<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/steve-free/>)

Member

Sounds like you might be weak i use 20lb power pro and a 20lb invisio line by berkly leader and never have breakoffs in fact just used mono i had more breakoffs then ever but since i switched to braid about 14 years ago fish fear me ha i have not changed your braid in a few years that might be a reason why your line might be weak braid does get not as fast as mono and the more time in the sun the faster it will weaken unless its new try changing it and if it is new maybe i would switch braid brands you can never go wrong with power pro great stuff and strong as hell

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REPLY

27 days 18 hours ago



dl2033@gmail.com

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/dl2033gmail-com/>)

I'd like to know a good knot for dropper line

Member

REPLY

2 months 14 days ago



Austin Prysock

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/austin-prysock/>)

What knot would you recommend for fluoro to a jig with a gulp shrimp?

Member

REPLY

3 months 1 day ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

I highly recommend the Loop knot that is shown in this post for connecting a jig to a fluoro leader (the video is embedded above).

Author

REPLY

3 months 1 day ago



Anonymous

I used my old style of knot and was just out fishing, got a lot of weeds and stuff on the knot. Then I remembered your knot video, reviewed it and retied my knots and had no trouble. Such a little detail to get the tag end toward the hook and not back up the line and it makes all the difference. Thanks.

REPLY

3 months 5 days ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

Glad to see that you're finding success with the leader assembly that's explained in this post. Fish On!

Author

REPLY

3 months 2 days ago



Anonymous

What knot would you use for mono to fluoro?

REPLY

3 months 7 days ago



Luke Simond

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

Author

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I use a 3 turn surgeon knot for that.

3 months 2 days ago

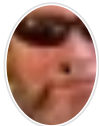


Anonymous

When using a lure how do we tie it i want to fish from the surf do i need a leader line to my main line I'm using a 20lb line

REPLY

4 months 16 days ago



Ira Cohen

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ira-cohen/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ira-cohen/>)

Member

REPLY

5 months 1 day ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

Author

Fluoro is technically a specific type of monofilament line... it's density is almost equal to that of water so it is supposedly is less visible in the water due to having less refraction of light.

There are many who believe that the refraction of light doesn't matter all that much making fluoro no different than traditional mono (they claim that the reflection of light is more of an issue than the refraction... so far, I haven't seen any documentation about fluoro having less reflective qualities than traditional mono.

I'm trying to find a way to test out the refraction vs. reflection aspects of line, so hopefully will have an answer that give hard proof one way or the other.

REPLY

5 months 1 day ago



John Pierce

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/john-pierce-4/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/john-pierce-4/>)

Member

I really like your fishing videos and all of the free help. (Makes me feel guilty).

I'm considering buying the video but I live in AL off Weeks Bay. I have tried all of your suggestions but I cant seem to find grass flats in my area. I cannot tell the difference between dark (deep) water and dark (grassy) water. We have some inshore reefs and oyster beds but I have not had much success fishing them. I catch sharks and catfish but I mostly use live bait. Before I put my money down, do you think your video will help me find the good fishing spots in my area? I will probably buy it anyway but AL isn't like FL. I plan on retiring at year's end and moving down there full time. It is much different from any place I have fished and I just cannot seem to get on the fish although I know people that can. The Bay area just looks like one big lake to me!

Thanks,

REPLY

5 months 11 days ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

simonds-2/)

Author

Thanks for the ' ' words about all of our fishing tips that post for the public. We hold our absolute best tips for our paying custom n confident you'll be glad that you upgraded to the next level given that you've shown interest in our basic conte

Yes, we have so G+ ailed map reading tutorials in both the Inshore Slammer course as well as in our Insider Fishing Club platform. Here's a link where you can learn a bit more about these two offerings:

<https://www.saltstrong.com/courses> (<https://www.saltstrong.com/courses>).

REPLY

5 months 11 days ago



Gary Rankel

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/>)

Member

Hey Luke.....another of your super informative articles which I'll share with my yak fishing group. My only question is why you seem to favor mono over fluoro leaders??

REPLY

5 months 14 days ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

Author

Hey Gary, I have not yet found a favorite on mono vs. fluoro leaders yet. I

switched over to fluoro years ago once it started coming out. But I'm now experimenting with normal mono and I can hardly tell a difference between the two in terms of performance. I'm in the process of building a system for testing their true abrasion resistance performance to see if one is better than the other in terms of keeping fish from chewing through the line. Will post results once the tests are done.

REPLY

5 months 11 days ago



Gary Rankel

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/>)

Member

Thanks, Luke. I've read numerous reports over the years online and in fishing magazines from "experts" who swear by fluoro, not only because of superior abrasion resistance, but because it's supposed to be invisible to fish, compared to mono which they say fish can see much better. I think tests have been done to support this view. With the clear water we have up here near Crystal River, I want to use the "most invisible" leader possible. However, just the slightest knick in the fluoro supposedly can be seen by fish, which is why I've been retying when that happens. If the reporting on this is wrong, and your testing shows that to be the case, I think it will be a major surprise.

Also, since mono floats and fluoro sinks, one or the other might be favored for certain presentations. Most "experts" seem to support using mono for topwater lures because of this, but I still prefer using fluoro for my go-to topwater Ima Skimmer because, when jerked during retrieve, I can get the Skimmer to dive under water a bit, after which it pops up emulating a bait fish trying to escape.

REPLY

5 months 11 days ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

Author

It basically comes down to an argument about refraction vs. reflection. Fluoro is closer to the same density of water, so it's refraction of light is less than traditional mono which isn't quite as dense.

But with the many leaders (30 lb and under) for inshore anglers being so thin, some argue that the refraction of light is not much of a factor compared to the reflection of light off of the outer surface of the line.

REPLY

5 months 11 days ago



/ Rankel



<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/>

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/gary-rankel/)

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Member

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5 months 11 days ago

Pretty interesting, Luke. I read pretty much everything written at inshore fishing, and this is a new one on me. I'll really be interested in the results of your testing.



Brian Furlow

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/brian-furlow/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/brian-furlow/)

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/brian-furlow/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/brian-furlow/)

Member

The FG knot is a phenomenal knot with superior strength. I learned it originally from your video. Thanks for sharing. The FG knot takes a little practice but then becomes second nature. So important to make sure that your all wraps are "side by side" and don't overlap each other otherwise the integrity of the knot is significantly compromised.

REPLY

5 months 19 days ago



Luke Simonds

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

Author

REPLY

5 months 18 days ago

Thanks for making time to leave the nice comment. Yes, the coils must be done side by side without any overlaps.



Ronald Richardson

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ronald-richardson/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ronald-richardson/)

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ronald-richardson/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ronald-richardson/)

Member

wow thanks lucas for the leader to braid knot. it is my favorite and really strong. you made it so easy to learn. because of that knot i,m thinking about joining the insider but i,m skeptical because you don,t do much from my area in weeki wachee.

REPLY

6 months 5 days ago



Luke Simonds

[\(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/\)](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

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Author

Hey Ronald, I'm glad to see that you like the leader to braid knot! I highly recommend giving the insider membership a shot because it'll ensure that you know what trends to look for when you're out on the water so you don't waste time in dead-zones.

What we're finding is that redfish, trout, flounder, snook, tarpon, etc. behave very similar as the seasons and weather patterns change, and our weekly detailed reports will put you ahead of the competition.

REPLY

6 months 5 days ago



Ben

Hi Luke i would like to know if i can use flurocarbon line to make my leader and what is the difference between flurocarbon line versus flurocarbon leader material

REPLY

8 months 18 hours ago



dave



ill be in st petersburg area reu 12- 27 i would like to try to catch a snook any suggestions

G+

REPLY

10 months 14 days ago

Tweet



Larry Gause



([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/larry-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/larry-gause/)

[gause/](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/larry-gause/))

Member

Luke,

In tying the fg knot, after making the 20 loops with the leader line, what line do I use to make the hitch knots to lock the loops in place??

REPLY

11 months 10 days ago



Luke Simonds



([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

[simonds-2/](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/))

Author

Use the braid to make the hitch knots... they should be tied with the tag end of the braid, and the hitch wraps should be done around the main line of the braid so it tightens down on the top of the FG coils.

REPLY

11 months 9 days ago



Burt Silver



I haven't been fishing since my dad took me when I was a young boy. In the recent years since he passed, I have wanted to get back out on the water and fish to feel close to him. I want to catch snook, but I'm afraid I won't have the skill to do so. This article was helpful, I had no idea that tying main line to the leader was the most important step in tying a leader line.

REPLY

11 months 28 days ago



Luke Simonds



([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

[simonds-2/](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/))

Author

Thanks for making time to leave the comment Burt.

I hope that you thoroughly enjoy your time out on the water in remembering your father and enjoying the outdoors.

Tight Lines!

REPLY

11 months 28 days ago



Jack Kenley



([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/jack-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/jack-kenley/)

[kenley/](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/jack-kenley/))

Member

I've found that Super 8 Slick braid is much better for casting.

REPLY

1 year 29 days ago



Michael Umstead



([https://www.saltstrong.com/family/michael-](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/michael-umstead/)

[umstead/](https://www.saltstrong.com/family/michael-umstead/))

Luke I'm just wondering if it would be a good idea if I tied a top loop knot from my leader to a tactical clip to change out lures if need be?



Luke Simonds

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

Author

If you use a tactical clip, then using it at the leader as you specified is much better than using it right at the lure. The use of the loop and clip to change out lures is ok, but I prefer to not have any added weight on my line because it can cause the line to get damaged on the bottom if fishing shallow areas with structure (like oyster bars), so I use line to line knots and just tie a quick loop knot whenever in need of changing lures.

REPLY

1 year 2 months ago



Aj Easterling

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/aj-easterling/)

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/aj-easterling/)

Member

I have a stupid question. Do you buy leader material or do you just use regular line for the leader? Seems less costly to use regular line. Thanks in advance.

REPLY

1 year 4 months ago ^



Luke Simonds

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

Author

Great question... there are a seemingly endless supply of leader line options out there and it can get very confusing. For years, I simply used regular mono for leader since it's so much less expensive. But when fishing tournaments, I began getting the expensive fluorocarbon leader line because everyone seemed to be raving over it. But I'm now going back and forth between the expensive fluoro and normal mono to see if there's a noticeable difference or not and so far, I can't tell much of a difference. Long story short, the expensive leader line works, but so does the normal mono... my recommendation would be to stick with a big brand so that you know you're getting quality line.

REPLY

1 year 4 months ago



Ben Castellano

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ben-castellano/)

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/ben-castellano/)

Member

I am a new surfcaster in NZ. I have been told the shock leader should be about 2.5 - 3 X the length of the rod (to go around the reel 3 or 4 times). That this helps with the cast of the weight. What are your thoughts?

REPLY

1 year 4 months ago ^



Luke Simonds

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

(https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/)

Author

My thought is that casting a knot through all of the rod guides on a frequent basis will significantly weaken the line. So I stick with leaders that are less than 3 ft so that I can cast them out without having the knots hit the rod guides.

The only time I use leaders longer than the rod is when fishing very finicky fish in very clear water... in those cases I'll use light line and a live/chunk bait so casting isn't done over and over again.

REPLY

1 year 4 months ago



Jack Van Fleet

(<https://www.saltstror.com/family/jack-van-fleet/>)

family/jack-van-

Awesome videos and information on all types of problems people have when fishing , Hats off to you for your work in training others the tricks of the trade.



(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/jack-van-fleet/>)

van-fleet/)

Member

REPLY



2 years 3 months ago

Tweet



Adam Monts

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/adam-monts/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/adam-monts/>)

Member

When using a gotcha plug or sting silver what knot would best be used to tie lure to ur leader? I like the idea of using the loop knot but worries me about the plug getting fouled with line more often. I typically use mono to flouracarbon leader tied with a uni.



REPLY

2 years 3 months ago



Luke Simonds

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

(<https://www.saltstrong.com/family/luke-simonds-2/>)

Author

Hey Adam, my apologies for taking so long to respond... I somehow missed your comment when it came in. Anyhow, I recommend using the Loop knot for all plugs/lures to allow them to have the most possible action in the water.



Although it seems as if loop knots would increase the amount of line foul-ups on the lure when a lure/plug with treble hooks, I have not seen any noticeable difference. Please let me know if you run into any issues with the loop knot leader assembly.

Fish On!

REPLY

2 years 2 months ago

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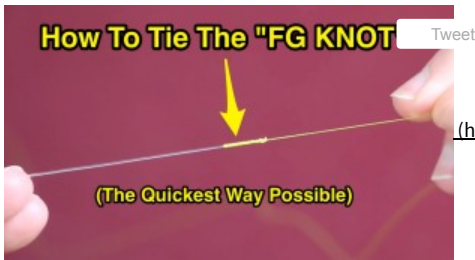
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