

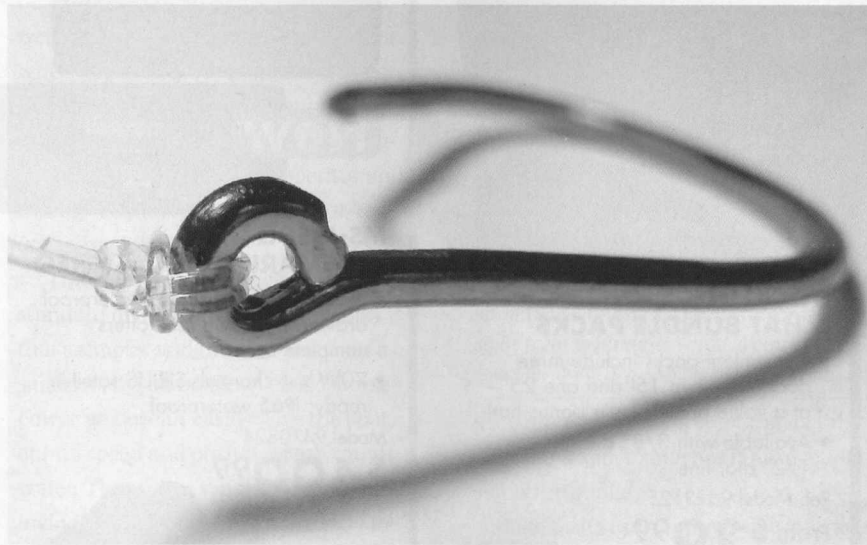
# The Palomar Knot

Rely on this knot when you need a strong, sure connection to a hook, lure or swivel.

by Tom Richardson

The improved clinch knot may be the most widely used knot for tying a hook, swivel or lure to a fishing line, but it's not the strongest. One knot vying for that distinction is the Palomar knot, which is just as easy to tie but boasts a breaking strength of 95 to 100 percent of the line being used (the exact number varies according to the type and brand of line). In other words, if tying the knot with 20-pound-test line, the knot will fail at or close to 20 pounds of pull. The breaking strength of the clinch knot, on the other hand, can be as low as 60 percent of the line. The Palomar is a very good knot to use with braided line, which tends to be more slippery than monofilament.

While certainly one of the strongest and easiest of knots to tie, the Palomar has two disadvantages: First, it produces a rather stiff connection, especially with heavy leaders, which may



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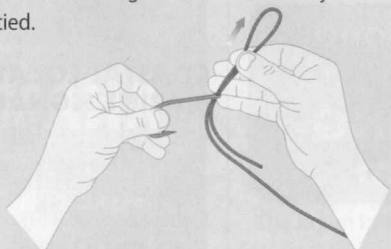
This photo shows a finished Palomar knot tied in monofilament. Boasting very high breaking strength, the Palomar is a great knot to use with light line.

hinder the action of a bait or lure. If a more flexible connection is desired, consider the nonslip loop knot (see *Catching Fish*, November 2007). Second, the Pal-

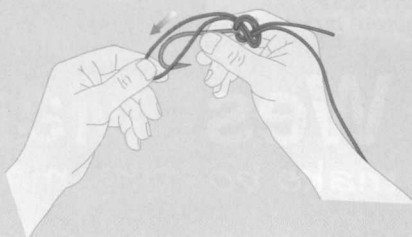
omar can be difficult to use with large or long lures and rigs, as the loop in step one must be passed around these objects in order for the knot to be tied. ■

## tying instructions

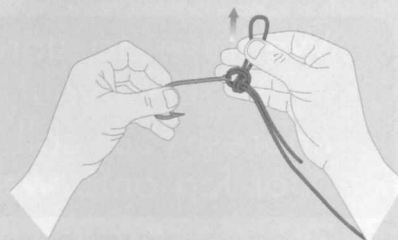
- 1) Double the end of the fishing line or leader and pass the loop through the eye of the hook, lure eye or swivel. The length of the loop will depend on the length and size of the object to which it is being tied.



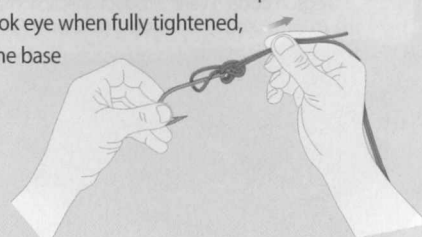
- 3) Pass the loop of line over the hook, lure or swivel.



- 2) Tie an overhand knot in the doubled line, but do not tighten it. Try to avoid twisting the line.



- 4) Moisten the knot and tighten fully by pulling on both the tag and standing ends of the line. Note: the loop should close above the hook eye when fully tightened, not around the base of the eye.



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