

BLOOD KNOT

The blood knot is a basic knot used to join two strands of similar-diameter monofilament.

I tie this with three wraps of the 40-pound butt around the twisted legs of the Bimini, and three wraps of the twisted legs around the 40-pound. If you're using anything lighter than 16-pound-test for your class, then you may want to make five turns with the twisted legs around the 40-pound butt section.

IMPROVED BLOOD KNOT

When you require a strong, small knot to connect your class tippet to a heavier bite or shock tippet, the improved blood knot is excellent. This knot is tied by doubling the class tippet with an extra long tag (with 12-pound tippet and heavier only). Start by thinking of a traditional blood knot. Take the double line and wrap it up the shock tippet five times, and then back down on top of itself four times. Now take the double line and—like a traditional blood knot—place it in the junction between the shock and the first wrap of the double line. Next, take the shock and wrap it three times around the tag and the class tippet. Stick it back through the middle of the knot entering from the opposite side of where the end of the double line is sticking out.

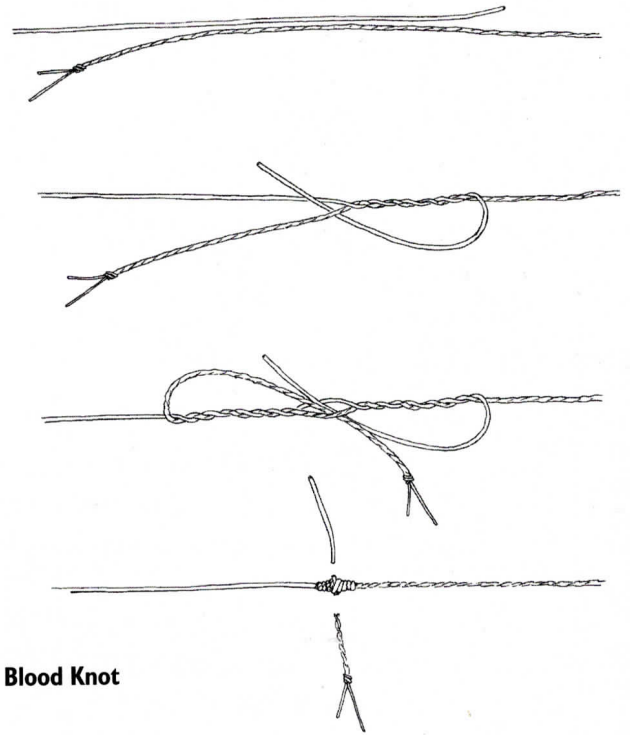
How you pull this knot tight, simultaneously snugging together all the wraps, is key.

My trick is to wrap the first and third fingers of both hands with adhesive tape around the middle joints. This prevents the monofilament from cutting your fingers—and it's painful!—when you pull everything tight. Wrap the shock around the first and third finger of your left hand over top of the tape twice. (Your middle finger is wedged between the two fingers but doesn't need tape because the mono never touches this finger.) The loose knot should be close to your index finger and thumb. Now wrap the extra long tag and class tippet together around the first and third finger of your right hand twice over top of the tape, again with your middle finger wedged between the two. The knot should be just in front of your right index finger and thumb. Moisten everything.

Remember, the key to the improved blood knot is snugging tight all the wraps at once.

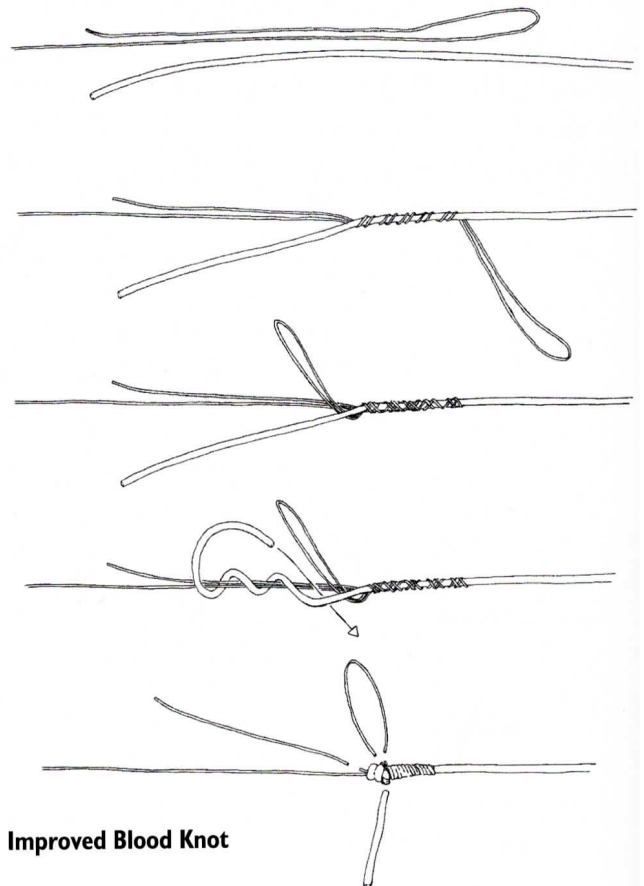
To do this, put your legs together and place your hands and arms over and around your legs. The loose knot should be between your hands just below your knees, with your hands and arms wrapped around the outside of your legs. With one quick, smooth move, separate your legs, hands, and arms as hard as you can. This will cinch together all the wraps at once.

Using your legs as the power source is imperative to successfully tying this knot.



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5 / 4 / 3 Tarpon Blood Knot



Improved Blood Knot