

The San Diego or Reverse Clinch Knot

I grew up with the normal clinch knot and later the improved clinch knot. Over the years I've lost the occasional fish with the normal clinch knot due to the knot slipping, and I've also lost a few fish with the improved clinch knot due to the leader breaking at the knot. While overall this might represent a very small percentage of the fish that I've hooked, I still have been uncomfortable with these knots. There is really no excuse for a knot failing.

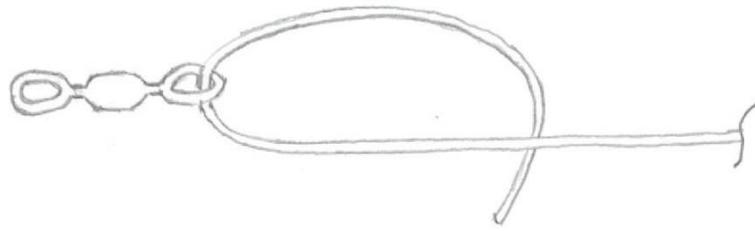
About fifteen years ago I discovered the San Diego or reverse clinch knot, which is recommended by San Diego tuna fishermen for use with fluorocarbon line. Fluorocarbon line is particularly sensitive to knots as it slips easily and will also break if there is any abrasion at the knot. The San Diego knot is easy to tie, very strong, and bad knots stand out and are easy to spot. I find that it snugs down better and is less likely to pile up or bind than the improved clinch knot. It is an outstanding knot and I've never had it fail when tied with nylon monofilament line.

For me this is the standard knot for attaching monofilament line to a swivel or quick change snap. Six wraps works well for 20 lb test monofilament, five wraps for 30 lb test and four wraps for 50 lb test. Remember to moisten the line (or dip the knot in a bucket of water) before tightening.

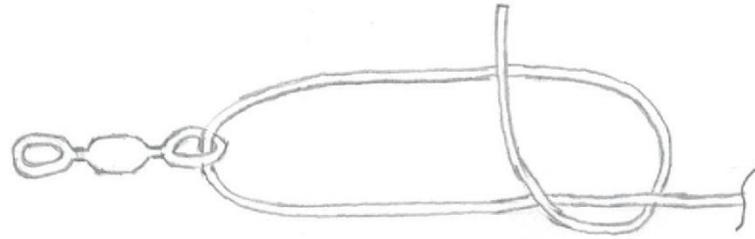
Tying this knot requires two open loops. I use the third finger on my left hand to maintain the loop on the left, and the third finger of my right hand to maintain the loop on the right. As shown in step 3, wrap from right to left then pass the tag end through the left loop, and then through the right loop parallel to the main line as shown in step 4. Moisten and tighten, the completed knot is shown in step 5.

Bill Haymond is author of "The Science of Salmon Fishing", which is available at www.thescienceofsalmonfishing.com .

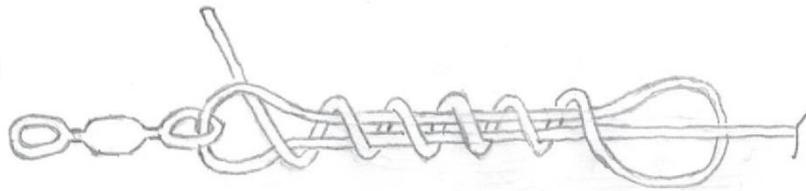
step 1



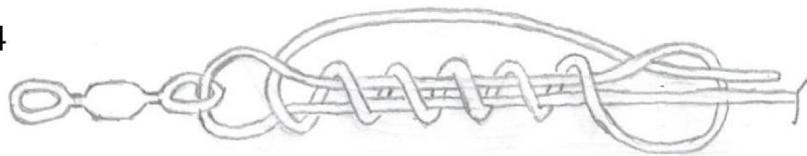
step 2



step 3



step 4



step 5

