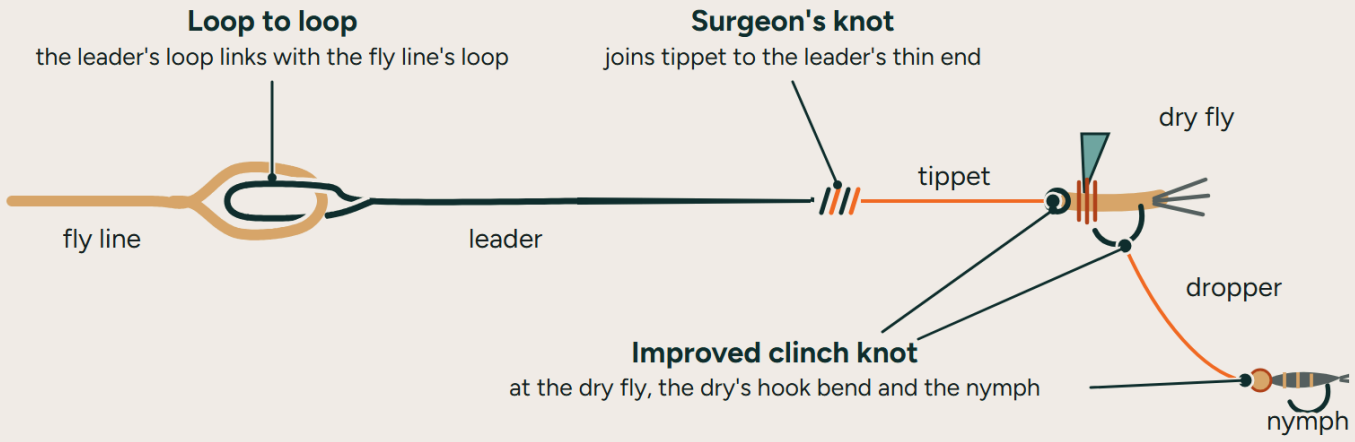
THE KNOTS YOU NEED

To rig the line in Fly Findr's guides, you join the leader to the fly line loop to loop, then tie two knots. A surgeon's knot joins tippet to the leader's thin end. An improved clinch knot ties on the fly.



From the reel end on the left to the fly on the right. Drawn far thicker than real line, and not to length.

LOOP TO LOOP: LEADER TO FLY LINE

As common practice, leaders are usually sold with that loop already tied. A fly shop can tie one if yours has none.

1. Push the fly line's loop through the leader's loop.
2. Pass the leader's thin end through the fly line's loop and pull the whole leader through.
3. Pull the two loops snug. Right: two chain links. Wrong: one loop cinched around the other.

SURGEON'S KNOT: TIPPET TO LEADER

1. Cut tippet from the spool. Overlap the ends, tag ends pointing opposite ways.
2. Hold them together as one line and make a loop.
3. Push the leader's tag end and the whole tippet in from behind the loop, out the front.
4. Do it a second time, the same way.
5. Wet it. Each side has one main line and one tag end: pull the sides apart; trim both tags.

IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT: FLY TO TIPPET

1. Pass the tag end through the hook eye.
2. Wrap it around the standing line 5 to 7 times, working away from the eye.
3. Bring it back through the small loop next to the eye.
4. Then through the big loop you just made.
5. Wet it, hold the fly, pull the standing line snug; trim the tag.

Steps are tying method, not tested findings. No study in Fly Findr's research tested how strong these knots are or compared them with other knots, so no knot here is called the strongest.