

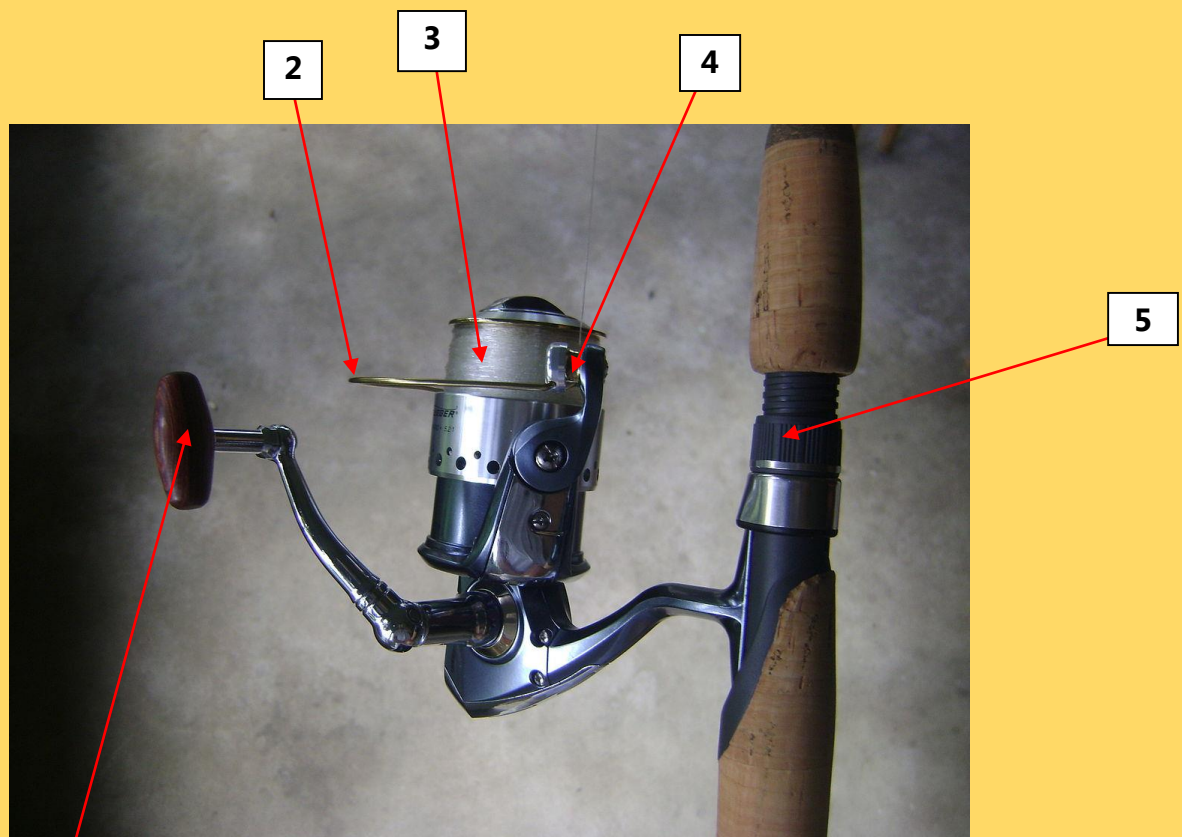
How to Prepare your Fishing Rod:

- Spooling the Reel
- Tying on the Hook



Introduction

Spring has sprung, and it's officially that wonderful time of year again. The first day of trout season is right around the corner, and you are hoping to brag to all your friends about that big catch you landed. The first step towards making this dream a reality is preparing your gear. When fishing gear is stored for the winter, the line will wear out from being wound around the reel for so long. The line becomes limp making casting difficult and tangling more likely. Nothing is more frustrating than watching other people reel in fish after fish while you are stuck untangling that pesky line. You should replace your fishing line at least once per season. This guide is divided into two different sections. The first will show you the correct way to spool your reel, and the latter will show you how to effectively tie on a hook or lure. This guide uses a spinning reel with an opening bail and 4lb test line to explain the steps. A picture defining the parts of the reel are shown below. Although a specific line and reel are used, the following steps can be used for preparing all types of lines and reels. Part



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Figure 1: Components of a Spinning Reel

1. Crank
2. Bail
3. Spool
4. Line Guard
5. Knob

You Will Need

- A fishing pole with a reel
- Fishing line
- Hooks (for live bait) or lures
- Matches
- Scissors
- A table in a well-lit room

Spooling Your Reel

1. Remove the reel from the fishing pole.

It is much easier to fasten the fishing line to the reel when the reel is separated from the fishing pole. First, you want to make sure the spool is facing up. Next, grab the knob located above the spool and rotate it counterclockwise to loosen it. **Figure 1** from above can help you locate the knob if you are having trouble. Once the knob has been loosened, grab the spool and remove it from the fishing pole.

2. Tie the fishing line to the spool.

-Begin by opening the bail on your reel. To open the bail, you must push it upwards. **Figure 2** shows an example of opening the bail.

-Next, open your package of fishing line, and find the free end. Grasp the free end of the line in your fingers and wrap it around the spool on your reel.

-Tie a basic overhand knot around the main line to keep it attached to your spool. **Figure 3** shows what your knot should look like. A roll of tape and twine have been used to enlarge the knot.



Figure 2: Opening the Bail



Figure 3: The Overhand Knot

3. Trim the excess piece of line.

Warning: Fishing line will burn very quickly. When burning the excess line, make sure not to burn the knot. If this happens, you will need to start over.

Carefully trim the excess line from the free end using either scissors or matches. You want to trim this as close to the knot as possible. The easiest way to remove this excess piece of line is to burn it away. **Figure 4 and Figure 5** illustrate which piece of line needs to be trimmed and how close to the knot you want to get it. Once you have trimmed the line, close the bail.

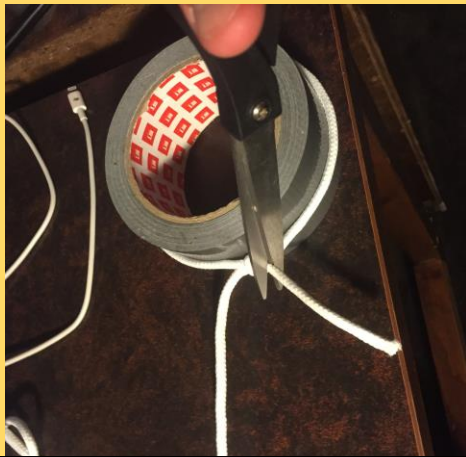


Figure 4: Trimming the excess line



Figure 5: Be careful around the knot

4. Reattach the reel to the fishing pole

Once again, turn your fishing rod over, so that the reel would be facing up while reattaching it. Place it on the rod and tighten the knob by turning it clockwise. It is important to lock your reel in place so that it will not fall off while casting.

5. Fill the spool with fishing line

-Lay your wheel of fishing line flat on the table. Keep the line taut as you are filling the spool. The easiest way to do this is to keep light pressure on it using your right middle and index fingers. **Figure 6** illustrates how to use your fingers to keep the line taut. Turn the reel with your left hand to fill the spool with line.



Figure 6: Keeping the line taut while filling the spool.



Figure 7: Proper amount to put on the spool

-You are free to reel in the line as fast as you like. You want to fill the spool until the line is about a quarter of an inch from the rim. To see what a quarter inch from the rim looks like, please view **figure 7**. You may not use the entire wheel of line, but that's ok. Over or under filling the spool will affect its casting performance. Once the spool has been filled, cut the line with scissors.

Warning: After Cutting, keep the end of the line in your hand so that it does slip below the bale.

6. Thread the line through the eye holes on your fishing rod

Open the bale so that the line can be uncoiled from the spool. Carefully thread the line through each eye hole on the fishing rod. Make sure there is enough line out so that it hangs about 4 feet down from the top eye hole. Now you are ready to tie on a hook or lure.

Securely Tying on your Hook

All examples for the hook tying steps have been completed using heavy twine. This is to aid visibility as fishing line is very thin and transparent making the knot hard to see.

Warning: When choosing a hook or lure, make sure you are in a well-lit area. Hooks are small and can frequently be dropped. Hooks are also very sharp and sticking yourself with one can be quite painful.

This guide demonstrates how to tie on a hook using a clinch knot. The clinch knot is relatively simple to learn and is very secure

1. Thread the line through the hole at the top of the hook.

Pass the end of your fishing line through the hole at the top of your hook or lure. This hole is called the eye. View the **figures** below to guide you.

- Threading the line is easier to accomplish in a well-lit area.
- Wetting the line with your mouth makes threading much easier.
- Give yourself about 2 ½ to 3 feet of line to work with.

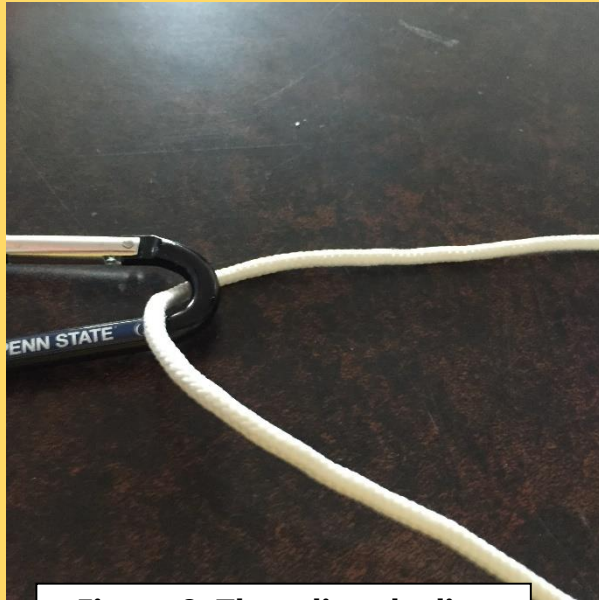


Figure 8: Threading the line through the eye.

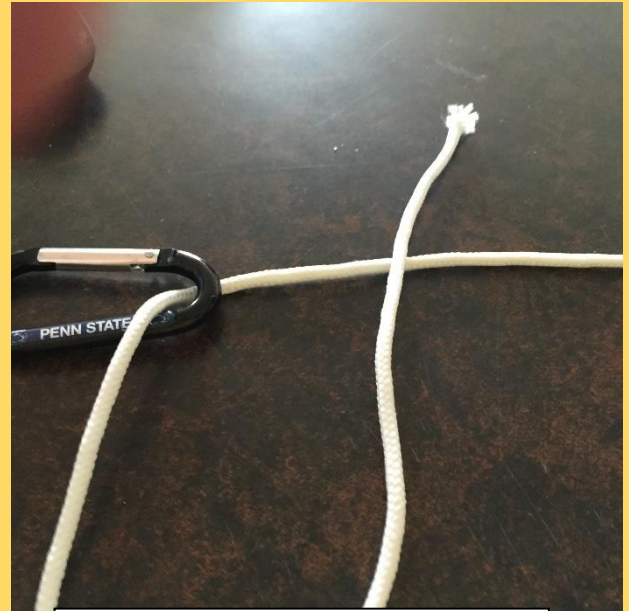


Figure 9: Give yourself enough line to work with.

2. Wrap the line over itself.

Take the end of the line and wrap it over itself. Repeat this process 5 times. It will form a sort of coil around the main line. Also, a loop will form right above the eye hole in the hook. Make sure that this loop remains open because you will need to use it later. A good strategy for keeping it open is to place a finger in it while you are wrap the line around itself. The following **figures** show the wrapping process as well as keeping the loop open.

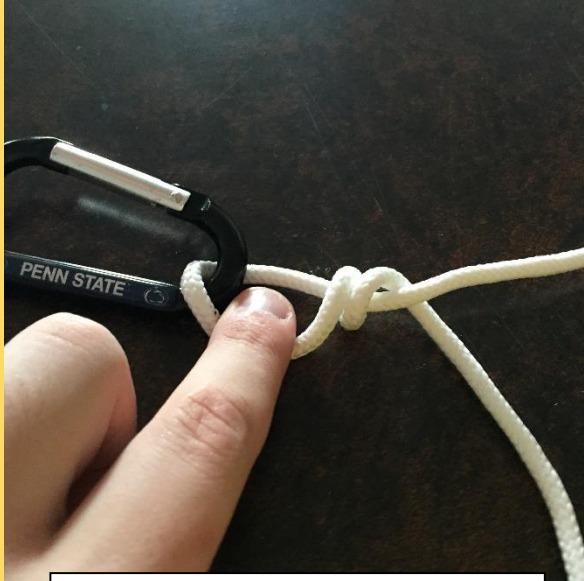


Figure 10: Using your finger to keep the loop open.

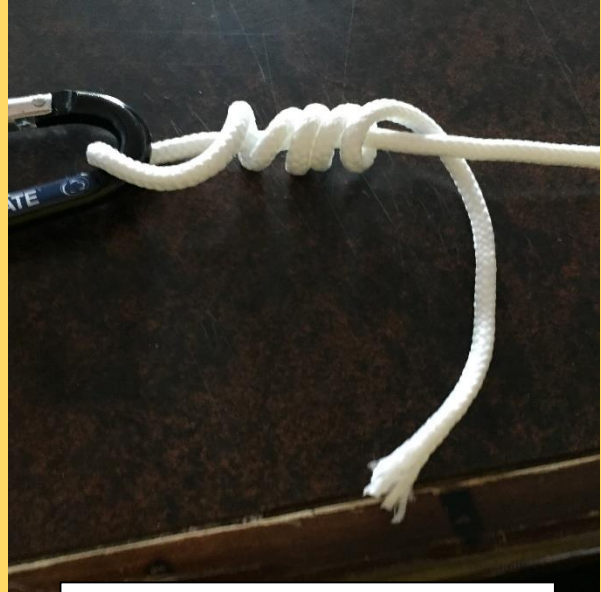


Figure 11: Wrap the line over itself 5 times.

3. Thread the line through the hole you created

Remember that hole you had your finger in? Thread the end of the line through the hole from the bottom. Take a look at **figure 12** for guidance.

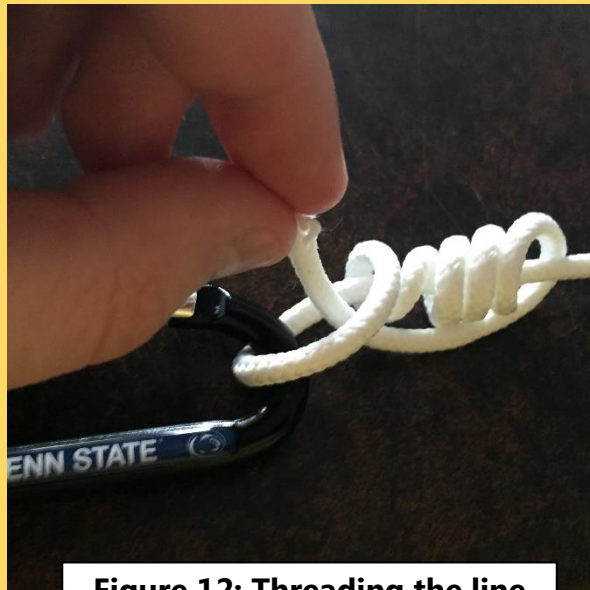


Figure 12: Threading the line through the loop

4. Thread the line back through the new hole you created.

You will notice that a new loop has been created. Take the end of the line and thread it through this new loop. Once again, the figure below illustrates this procedure.

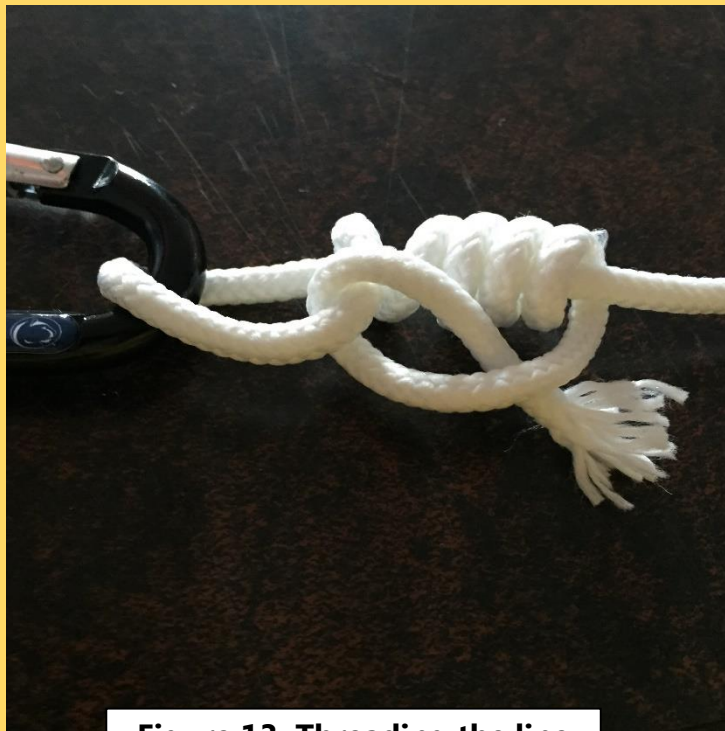
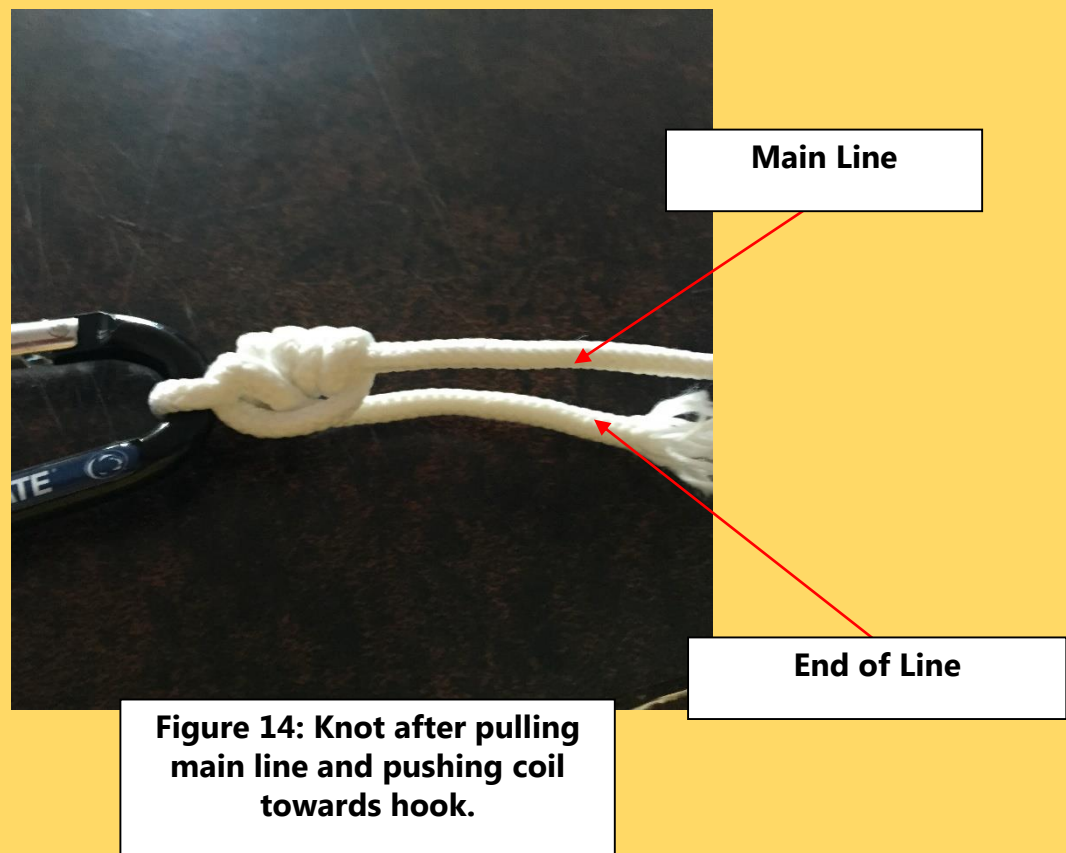


Figure 13: Threading the line through the new loop.

5. Pull everything tight!

For this step, you will first want to pull on the main line while also pushing the coil down towards the hook. **Figure 14** shows what this will do to the knot. Next, you will want to pull on both the main line and the end of the line to make sure the knot is nice and tight. It is sometimes helpful to use your teeth to pull on the end of the line.



6. Trim the excess piece of line

Trimming the excess line is an important step. Fish will be suspicious of the line hanging near your bait. Trimming the line helps to disguise the hook. The following **figures** show where to trim the line, and what the final knot looks like.



Figure 15: Trimming the excess line

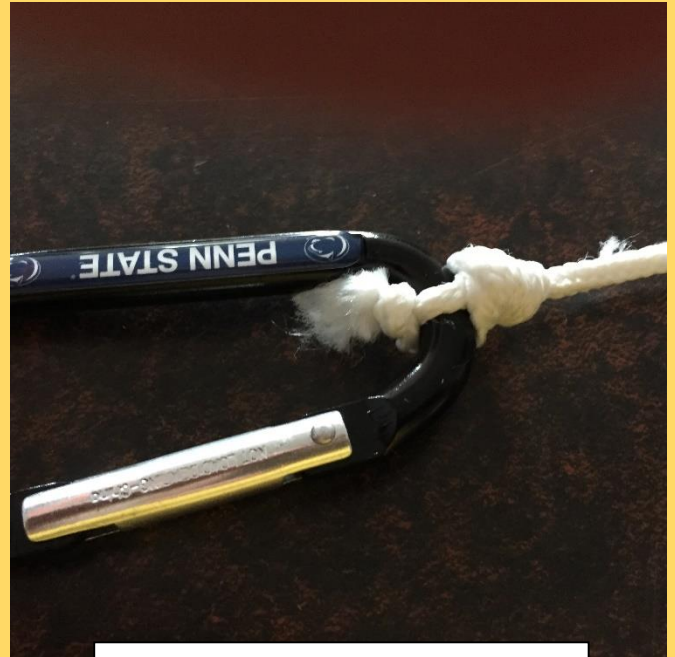


Figure 16: The final clinch knot

Your fishing rod is now ready for wherever you want to take it. Most states require that you own a license to fish in rivers and lakes. Also, be sure to check with local authorities to see if there are any laws about keeping fish that have been caught. When done right, fishing is an extremely relaxing activity and it is just so exciting to feel that jerk in the line when you have hooked something nice.

References

Images taken from the following urls:

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<http://fishingnoob.com/114/how-to-load-line-on-a-spinning-reel/>

