



**Fly Fishing's Creative Specialist in Fly Lines, Leaders & Tippet Materials™**

## How to Rig Your RIO Fly Line: A GUIDE TO BASIC KNOTS & SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

### Thank you for choosing a RIO fly line.

All RIO floating fly lines (with the exception of the MainStream lines) are produced using the proprietary RIO SlickShooter™ Process. The SlickShooter™ Process is a combination of unique chemistry and manufacturing processes making the lines super slick, and ultra smooth to shoot line further and perform better when fishing. The lines feature self-lubrication, dirt resistance and extremely durable coatings that result in a longer lasting fly line.

### SETTING UP YOUR RIO FLY LINE

We suggest you have your fly tackle dealer set up your reel. The experts at your local fly shop work with hundreds of lines each year and know from experience how much 20 or 30 pound backing, fly line, butt section, and leader to put on your brand of reel. If you prefer to do the job yourself, we suggest you set up your RIO fly line in reverse order. By loading your reel this way, you'll know exactly how much backing, fly line and leader will fit on your reel. In short, connect the butt section and leader to the fly line tip first, then connect the backing. Next, tape the tippet of the leader to the arbor of the reel and wind on the fly line and backing until you are left with an 1/8 inch of room from the edge of the spool. This will allow you enough space in case you want to change to a longer leader and tippet, or a thicker diameter sinking leader.

Many reel companies have a chart showing the recommended amounts of backing that will fit on their reels, but use these only as a guide. Some fly lines are longer, leaving less room for backing, and some are shorter in length, allowing for more backing. After you have wound on the amount of backing you need, pull everything off the reel. As you unspool your reel, it is best to make several large open coils of backing on a clean carpet or floor. If you make only one pile, you may have great difficulty in trying to keep the backing from tangling. If you have the space outdoors, tie the backing to a tree or fence post and walk out the full length of the backing and fly line. Then tie off the leader to another tree and wind the backing on to the reel as you walk back towards the fly line. If you have a fly line winder you can simplify these steps.

There are several knots and techniques you can use to set up your reel, fly line and leader. All RIO fly lines have 6" (15cms) of level line at the end of the forward taper. You can tie several leaders, butt sections, or attach a braided loop in this level section. Some anglers leave this level section alone because they need the softest presentation for dry fly fishing.

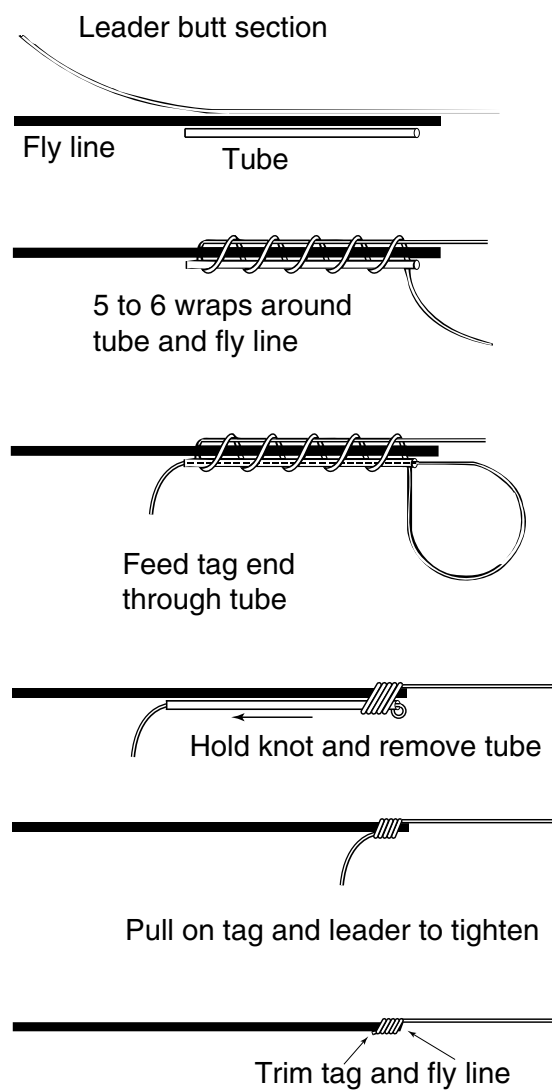
When dealing with strong winds, anglers who want a little more positive turnover in their line may choose to cut back this level section. We suggest that you do not cut this level section until you are very familiar with how the line and rod work together.

### CONNECTING LEADER OR BUTT SECTION TO FLY LINE

Check the fly line to butt section or leader several times a season. When any knot starts to cut into or break down the coating of the fly line, and you notice a definite hinge in the tip, replace the knot.

1) **Needle Nail Knot.** For trout fishing attach a butt section of RIO Butt Material from 16" to 24", then use a five-turn blood knot to attach the butt area of a tapered leader. This will allow you to connect several leaders to this monofilament butt before you have to replace it. To connect the butt section to the tip of the fly line either use a simple nail knot, tube nail knot, or a needle nail knot. For the needle nail knot, use a small diameter sewing needle and work it into the tip and core of the fly line, then through the coating, so you have an exit hole 1/2" up the fly line. Remove the needle, take a razor blade and at a 60 degree angle, slice the monofilament trying to make a thin taper in the nylon. Insert the tapered butt into the centered hole you've made in the fly line and through the coating. Then use a pair of pliers to pull the nylon about 6" through

### TUBE NAIL KNOT

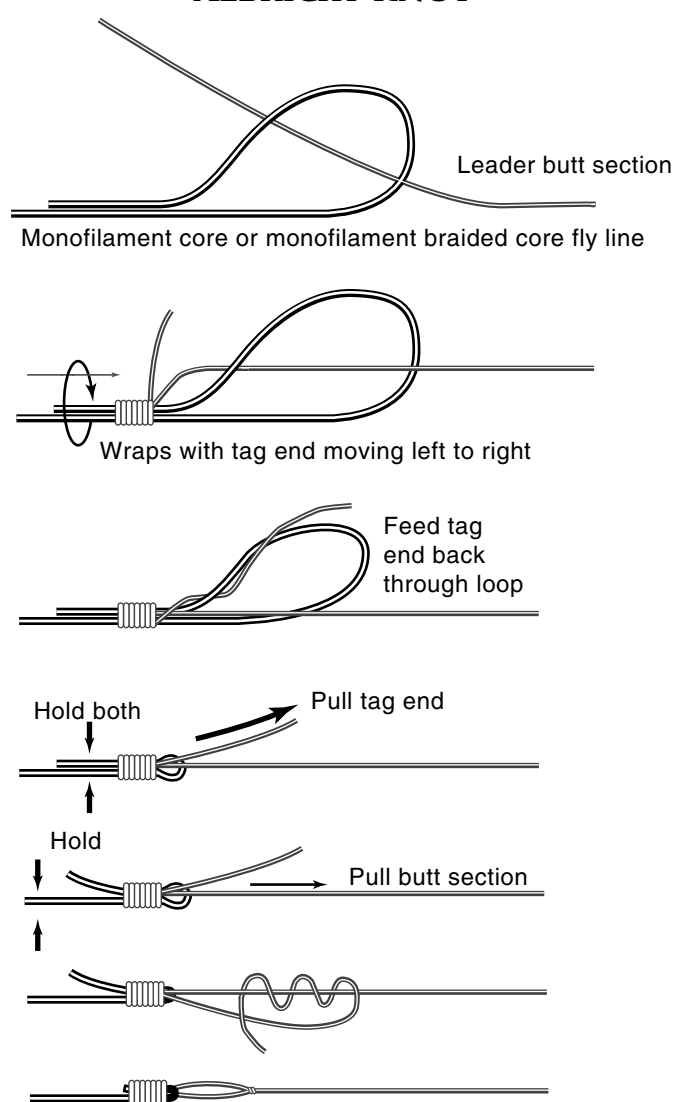


the coating. Next you may tie a standard nail knot at the exit point of the coating. The advantage of this knot over a standard nail knot is that a needle nail knot will give better leader turnover as you cast all the energy in a straight line to the fly.

2) A **Braided Loop** connection is favored by some anglers for connecting a leader to a fly line. Just follow the instructions that come with your package of RIO braided loops. Consider putting a small, four-turn nail knot with 10 to 12 lb. mono at the back end of the loop to make sure the loop doesn't come off. Some anglers feel that the braided connection will not carry the energy of the casting stroke as well as a nail knot, but are willing to give up a small amount of performance for the ease of changing leaders.

3) The **Albright knot** is the best connection for heavy lines and leaders, and many saltwater anglers prefer this knot, especially when the fly line is a monofilament or monofilament braided core. It's a bit bulky, but good for larger species of fish, if you don't mind the knot banging through the guides.

### ALBRIGHT KNOT



4) For heavy game fish and fly lines, a loop created

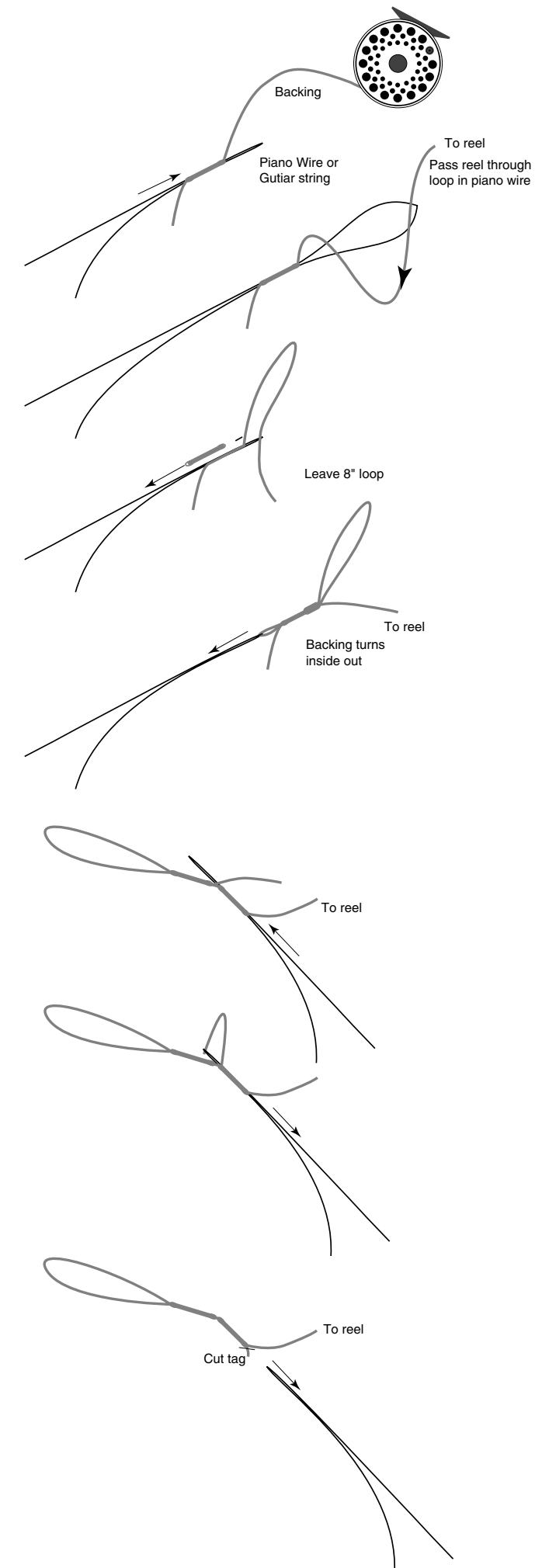
by doubling over the tip of the fly line and then securing it with two, four-turn nail knots of medium stiff nylon, back to back is favored by saltwater and anadromous fly fishers. The disadvantage of this knot is that if you bring the leader into the guides, it's bulky and will not slide through the guides readily.

### CONNECTING THE BACKING TO THE FLY LINE

A large 8" 20cms loop in the RIO backing, allows you to change lines very quickly by passing the backing loop over the entire spool of fly line. We recommend the **reverse blind splice** since it produces a more secure junction than a regular blind splice.

The only tools you will need are; 2' or 60cms of piano wire, or the smallest guitar string and a pair of scissors.

### REVERSE BLIND SPLICE



Insert the long doubled over wire into the core of the backing 2" (5 cms) from the tag end of the backing. Run the doubled over wire into the center for 2" (5 cms) and out again. Then pass the long doubled over wire around the spool of backing ~or if the backing is already on the reel, over the reel~and catch a loop of backing. Work the loop of backing inside the center which actually turns the backing inside out. When it has all been worked out, insert the doubled over wire once again 2" (5 cms) into the backing towards the 6" loop and grab the tag end 3/8" from the end of the first exit and pull it through. This is the lock stitch. This will insure that the blind splice loop will not come

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