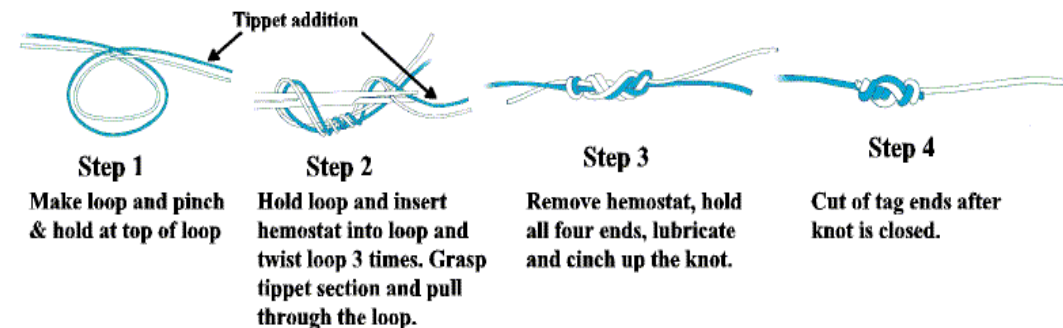


## TIP OF THE MONTH - *Lefty Kreh Leader Knot (LKLK)*

Recently we saw a video clip of the Lefty Kreh leader knot on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDxGy3Nld2g>) and the same video was also shown on the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club website.



The knot was advertised as a 100% strength knot for joining leader sections or tippet ends. The knot is easily tied, is easy to lubricate (unlike the blood knot) and makes for a very compact knot. However, the proof that this knot was a 100 % knot was not given. Having completed a series of knot tests on both nylon and fluorocarbon leader material over the past year, I decided to take this knot back to the research lab at Georgia Tech to test the strength of the knot. The breaking strength was measured with an Instron Tensile machine under laboratory ISO 9001 standards.

Seven knots were tied with the LKLK with 3x Frog Hair nylon tippet material. The advertised average strength for this 3x nylon is 8.5 lbs. We tested the intrinsic strength of the leader at 8.6 lbs with a high and low point at 9.5 and 7.7 lbs. respectively. We tested the 7 knots and found the average breaking strength of 7.57 lbs. (high and low points at 8.0 and 7.06 lbs.) The math here would yield an average breaking strength at 88% of the intrinsic strength of the 3x leader. However, with the exception of one test all breaks were in nylon outside of the knot.

When we compare the next best knot that we tested in nylon leaders we found that it was the triple surgeons knot, which tested at 89% of average strength. However, most of the breaks were at the knot rather than outside the knot.

So in summary, the Lefty Kreh leader knot is a very good knot that exhibits near 100% of the leader breaking strength and based on all of our tests on similar knots, it is the strongest leader to leader knot we have tested.

### *Knot under test*

#### **M. A. (Mack) Martin Jr.**

Manager & FFF Certified Master  
Fly Casting Instructor  
Atlanta Fly Fishing School  
6105 Paddock Lane  
Cumming, GA 30040 Voice mail (404)683-0070  
[www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com](http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com)

