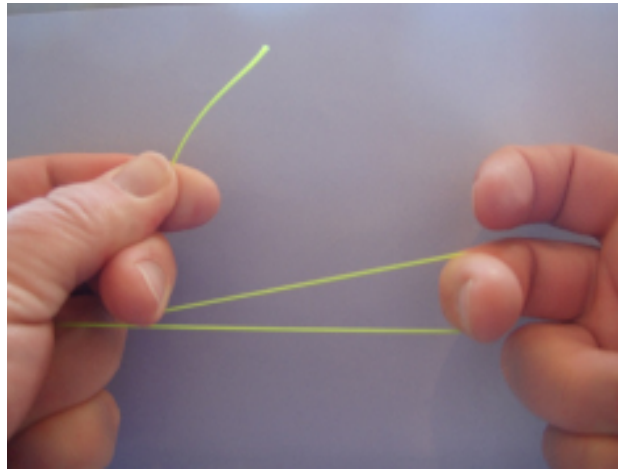
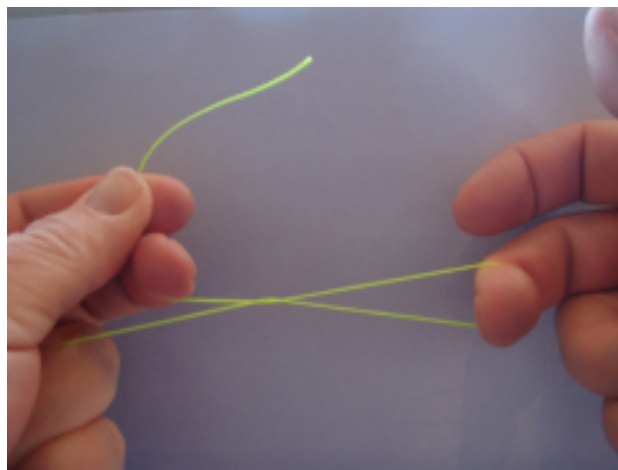


Freehand Improved Clinch Knot

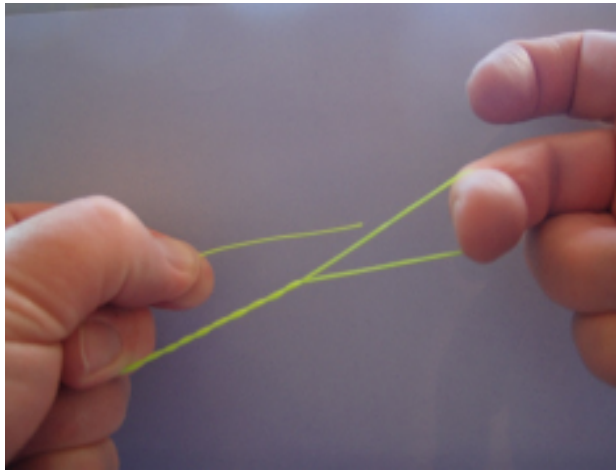
This is the method I use to tie tippet to the bend of the hook. I have also used hemostats to clamp on to the point of the hook, creating false eye on which to tie the knot. In my humble opinion, this is much faster and more reliable.



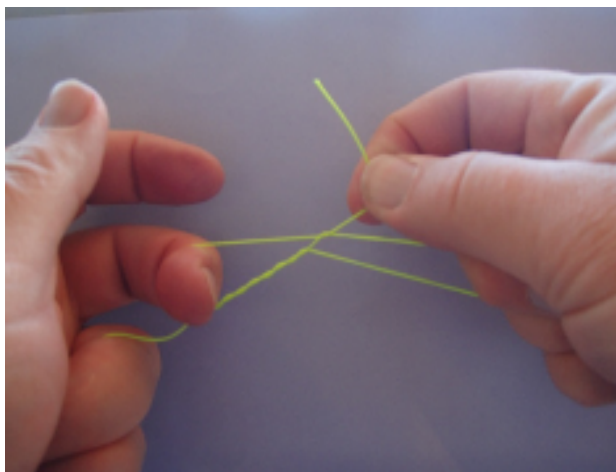
Step 1: Starting point. Notice that the ring and little fingers of the left hand are anchoring the tippet. Also, middle fingers of both hands are used as anchors.



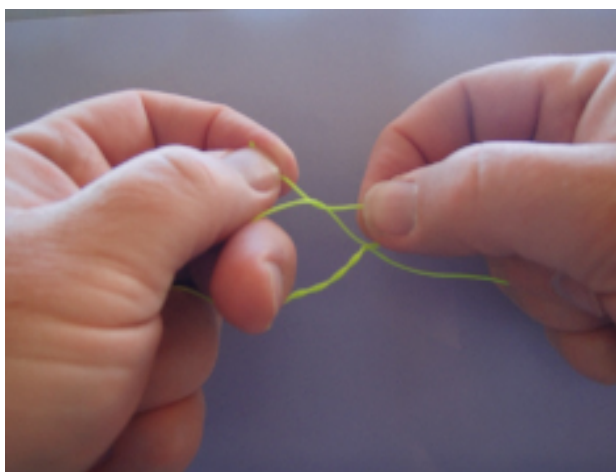
Step 2: The middle finger of right hand which substitutes as the eye of the fly and starts the twists (wraps) of the clinch knot.



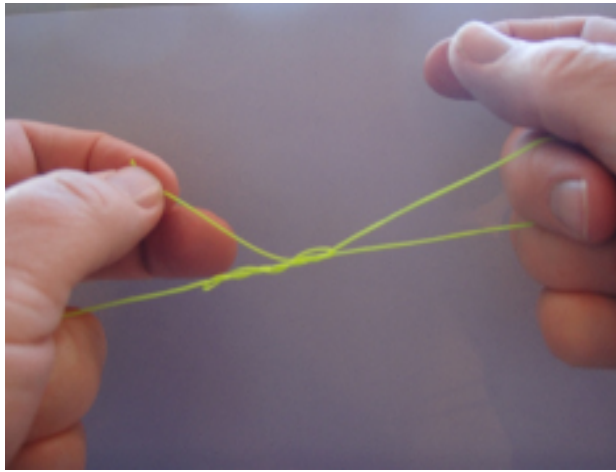
Step 3: With five twists completed, the thumb and index of left hand feeds the tag through the loop created by right middle finger.



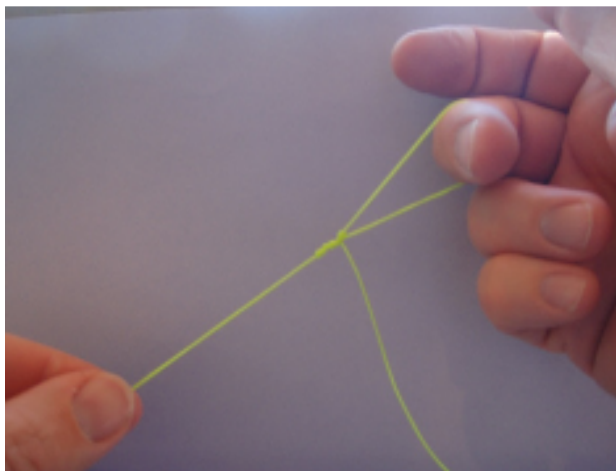
Step 4: Thumb and index of right hand now grab tag and feed it through loop of left middle finger.



Step 5: Hand off from right hand to left hand is complete. This step distinguishes this as an "improved clinch knot."



Step 6: Release left middle finger of left hand from loop and start to tighten knot.



Step 7: Tighten knot to manageable loop, but not too tight. This is a good time to moisten knot. I put entire loop and knot in my mouth.



Step 8: Place loop over hook bend of fly.



Step 9: Make sure knot is well moistened and you should be able to snug it up on hook quickly. If not, work the knot down to bend with thumb and index fingers from right hand. Tighten and trim tag.