

GETTING IT WIRED

WORKING WITH WIRE

— both hard and braided — is challenging for most anglers. But here are two simple connections that will keep you hooked up when targeting toothy creatures from bluefish and sharks to mackerel and wahoo. Both can be used not only to attach hooks and lures, but also swivels and other terminal hardware.

BRAIDED WIRE IS POPULAR in a number of offshore fishing applications because it's supple and easier to work with than hard wire.

This is the connection of choice when making the link to hooks or lures on light tackle, particularly for small, toothy species.

STEP 1: Insert the braided wire

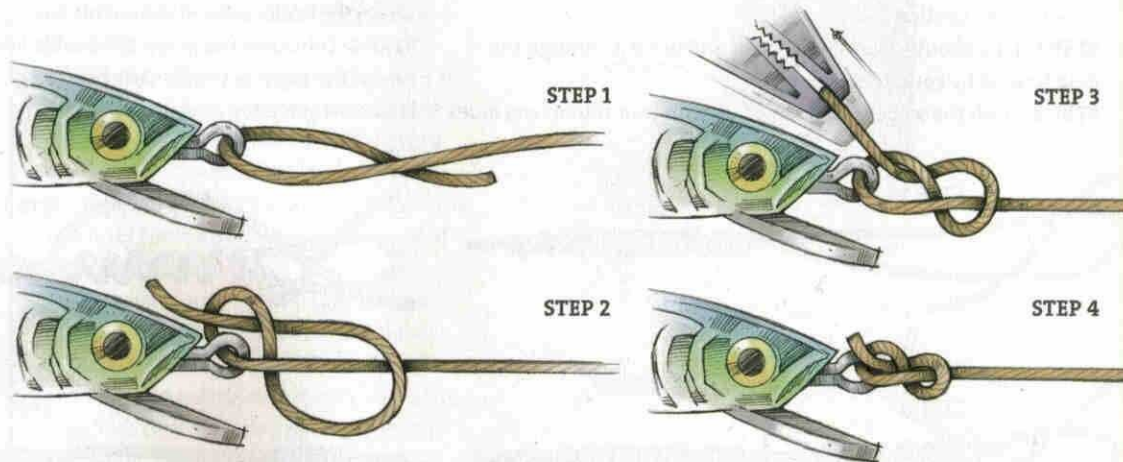
The Figure-8

through the hook eye or split ring. Double back (about 3 inches) and carry the tag under the main strand.

STEP 2: Wrap the tag over the main strand and back through the loop that goes through the eye or split ring (at this point, the knot should resemble a numeral 8).

STEP 3: Tighten by pulling the slack out of the tag end while keeping steady pressure on the main strand. This step is critical, as failure to do so allows kinked wire from inside the knot to be drawn in front of the knot.

STEP 4: Trim the tag end close to the knot.



The Haywire Twist (for single-strand hard wire)

STEP 1: Place the tag end of the wire through the hook eye. Double back 6 inches, crossing the tag over the main strand, forming an X. Pinch with your thumb and forefinger to keep in place.

STEP 2: Firmly hold the wire and make a half-turn with the main strand and the tag at right angles to each other, forming a tight X. The tag and main strand must be held so that such an X forms each time a half-turn is completed. Make 3 1/2 turns. Now the main strand should be straight, and the tag end should be perpendicular to it.

STEP 3: Make three or four sequential wraps around the main line with tag end.

STEP 4: Take the end of the tag and form a small handle at a 90-degree angle to the knot. Grasp and work the handle back and forth in a parallel motion to the main strand, breaking the wire flush to the last wrap.

STEP 5: Make sure the wire breaks cleanly. If not, cut it off and twist the wire again. NEVER trim the tag with cutters; this will result in a small, sharp tag protruding and can result in injury.

