

Reverse Jam Hitch

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This approach to placement of the conventional Jam gives the same result as the standard approach to tie on the thread, but in the opposite direction. It is most useful on flies that require initial thread winds to begin from the bend and proceed toward the hook eye. Though the instructions may appear at first complicated, given a minimal amount of practice, soon the fly tier will find it simple and surprisingly useful.

It is assumed the tier is right handed. The approach is simply reversed for left hand tiers.

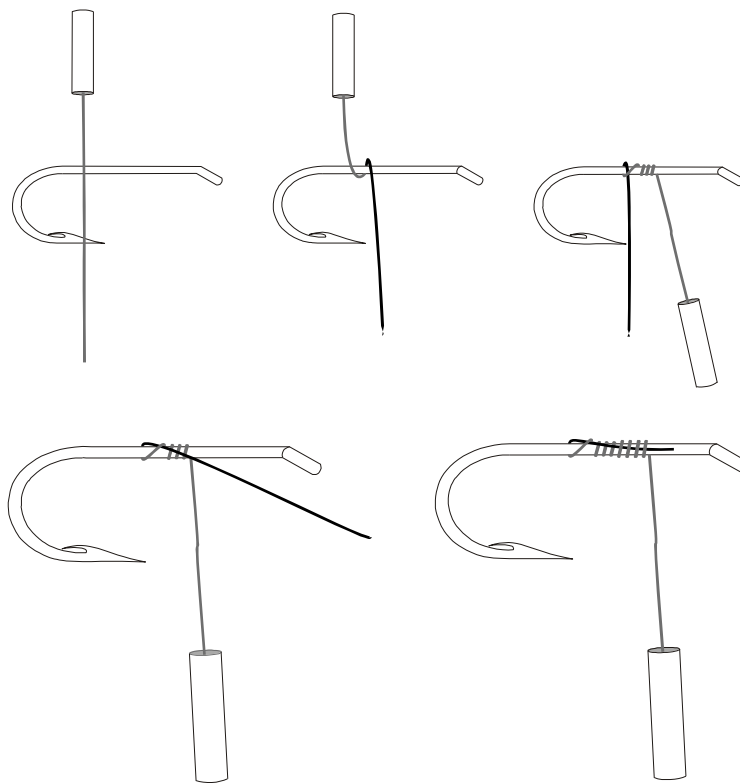
1. Begin the Reverse Jam with the bobbin holder held above the hook shank in the right hand and the waste end of the thread in the fingers of your left hand beneath the hook with the thread laid up against the near side of the hook.
2. With the left fingers reach the waste end of thread underneath the hook to the far side, then back over the top of the hook angling in the direction of the hook eye. Slide the loop of thread that now encircles the hook to a proper position appropriate to the fly.
3. While still holding the waste end in the left hand, wind the thread coming from the bobbin holder around the hook shank toward the hook eye with 3-4 adjacent winds. These winds will be in front of the single wind made by the waste end.
4. Hold the bobbin holder (still in the right hand) firmly below the hook or slightly toward you, but not so loose or tight that when the waste end is released the winds come free.
5. Place the waste end of thread with your left fingers over the top of the thread coming from the bobbin holder. Next, without letting go of the bobbin holder in your right hand, reach below and grasp the stub of thread again with your left fingers and pull the waste end toward the hook eye. This smooths and tightens the thread.
6. Make two winds over the waste end releasing the end with the left fingers only

briefly when the thread from the bobbin holder crosses over it.

7. Continue winding the thread toward the hook eye over the waste end a few more winds to be sure the Reverse Jam is absolutely secure before trimming the waste end off.

Footnote: For you bibliophiles you may find it interesting to learn that Lee Wulff referred to the step of tying on the thread with a different term. "...My first step is to pick up the hook and start the dinging with a piece of thread long enough to tie the fly" (Lee Wulff, "The Wulff Fly Patterns," Roundtable, January/February, 1979)

Reverse Jam



Wayne Luallen / October 2002

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