

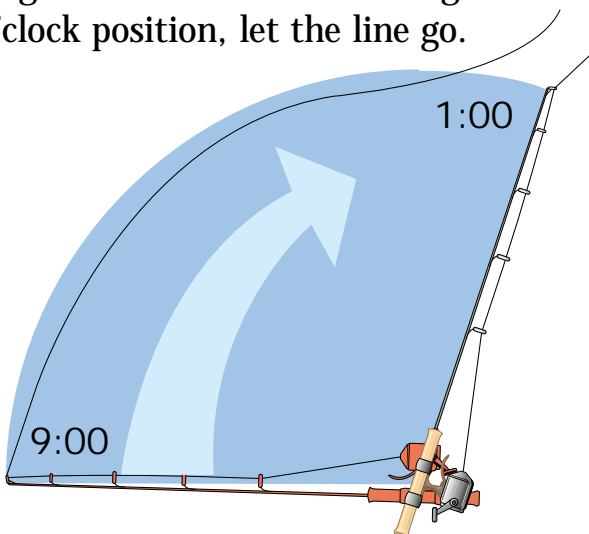
# The Basics: Casting and Knots

by Dennis Tubbs

**Casting is an important part of fishing. If you cannot cast to the right spot, the world's best bait will not help you catch fish. Here are two ways to cast.**

## Overhand cast

To perform an overhand cast, place the rod to your back at about the 9 o'clock position. Swing the rod overhead and as it gets to the 1 o'clock position, let the line go.



## Sidearm cast

Start with the rod in the same position as the overhand cast. Swing the rod to your left or right side. As it gets to 1 o'clock for left-handed casters, or 5 o'clock for righties, let the line go.

Remember to turn the crank on the reel after the bait hits the water. This sets the reel's drag.

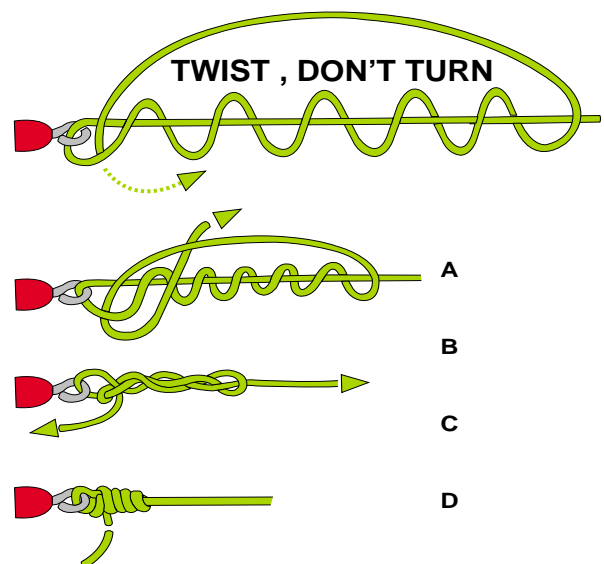
Practice casting in your backyard before going fishing. Use different-sized targets such as a plastic hoop or tire swing. Then, when you get really good, try a soup can.

## Knots

A strong, easy-to-tie, basic knot is the improved clinch knot.

To tie an improved clinch knot:

A. Thread your line through the hook eye and double back the line. Wrap the loose end five to six times around the line to the reel.



B. Thread the loose end through the first loop above the eye.

C. Thread the end through the loop made in step B. Wet the knot and then pull it tight.

D. Clip off excess line.

To learn more about casting and knot-tying, read these Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission publications:

*Fishing: Getting Started*

"Practice Makes Perfect"

"Knots on Knots"