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Carp Rigs Explained

Choose the right rig, tie it neatly and know what to check



FREE EIGHT-PAGE SAMPLE

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Let's get you fishing

Choose the right rig, tie it neatly and know what to check

A practical guide, at your pace

Start with the hair rig and get that working well before trying the alternatives. Each rig uses a particular version, so follow its materials and steps together. You don't need every rig in your tackle box.

How to use this book

This sample teaches a coated-braid hair hooklink for a sinking boilie on a clean patch. Have a compatible wide-gape hook, coated braid, bait, bait stop, needle, scissors and a safe knot-pulling tool ready. Follow the five lesson pages together. Use the finished hooklink with a compatible complete lead system, following its instructions and release checks; this sample does not teach the whole lead-system assembly.

Make it your own

No book can promise a catch. What it can do is make your choices clearer and help you learn from each trip. Keep the bits that work for you, and enjoy finding your feet.

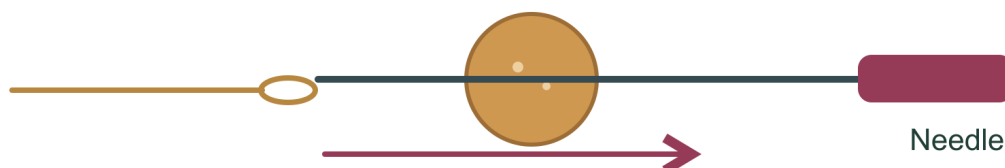
About this sample

These eight pages give you a complete small lesson from the book. The full guide is coming soon; there is no purchase link or release date yet.

1. Put the bait on first

This is a coated-braid hair rig for a sinking boilie on a checked clean patch. A size-6 wide-gape hook and 15mm sinking boilie make a useful practice combination. Check the actual fit and venue rules rather than relying on those numbers alone.

1 Draw the tied hair loop through the pierced bait



2 Remove the needle and seat the bait stop



Tie the hair loop first; use the actual bait to set length.

Mounting the actual bait now makes the next measurement much easier.

Prepare a working length

Cut about 30cm of coated braid. Strip roughly 10-13cm from the hook end so the hair, hook wraps and a short section above the eye will be supple. Use the proper stripper and check that the fibres remain intact.

Tie the hair loop

Double a small length of the stripped end and tie an overhand loop: pass the doubled tip through the loop you have made and tighten it. Pierce the boilie with a baiting needle, catch this little loop and pull the bait onto the braid. Slide a bait stop through the loop, then seat the boilie against it.

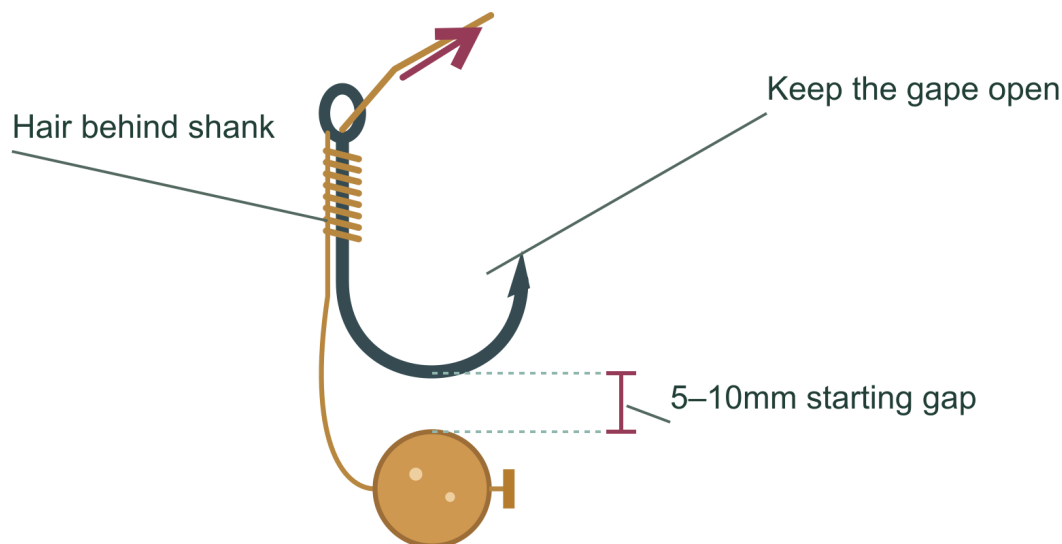
You will also need

A bait stop, anti-tangle sleeve and compatible swivel connection. The hair is the short braid carrying the bait, not a separate hook.

2. Leave the hook room to work

Hold the hook with its point facing away from your fingers. It is easier to judge the hair with the bait already in place.

Set the bait clear of the hook bend



Adjust the hair to the bait — the diagram is not to scale.

Keep the bait below the bend and the inside of the hook clear.

Set the gap

Lay the hair along the back of the shank, with the boilie below the bend. Around 5-10mm between bait and bend is a useful starting point, not a rule for every bait. The boilie should not fill the gape or press against the point.

Pass through the eye

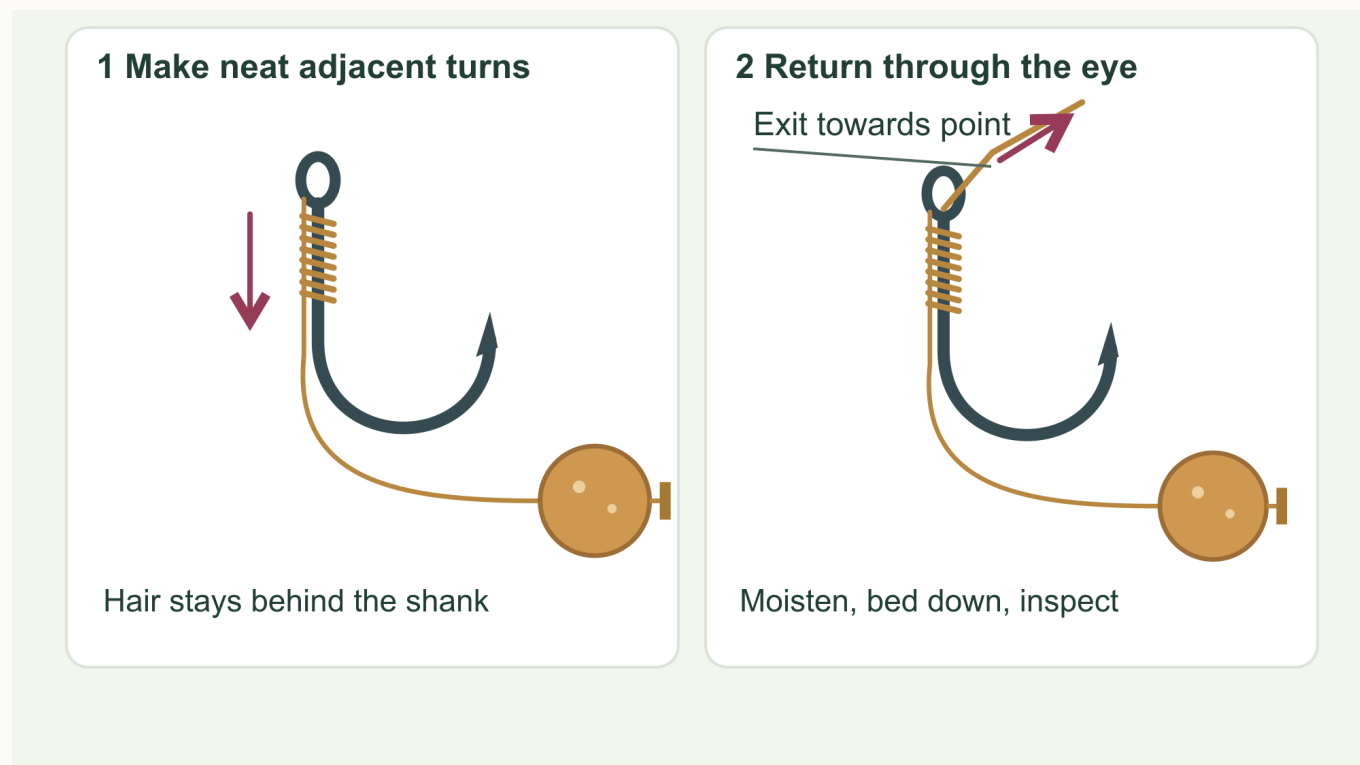
Take the long free end through the eye from the back, so it comes out on the hook-point side. Hold the hair and hook together without letting the bait slide. Look again before wrapping: the hair belongs behind the shank, not across the inside of the hook. If your hook and bait need a different gap, adjust it now rather than after tightening.

Point-side exit

This means the finished hooklink leaves the eye towards the side with the hook point. Use that landmark instead of turning the hook repeatedly to work out front and back.

3. Tie the knotless knot

The name sounds odd, but this is simply a series of neat wraps held by the route back through the eye.



Wrap down the shank, then return through the eye towards the point.

Make adjacent turns

Hold the hair still. Wrap the long end around the shank and hair, working down from the eye. Start away from the eye's metal join so the line does not rub across it. About seven to nine turns is a useful starting point for this braid and hook; stop before carrying the whipping unnecessarily round the bend.

Return and tighten

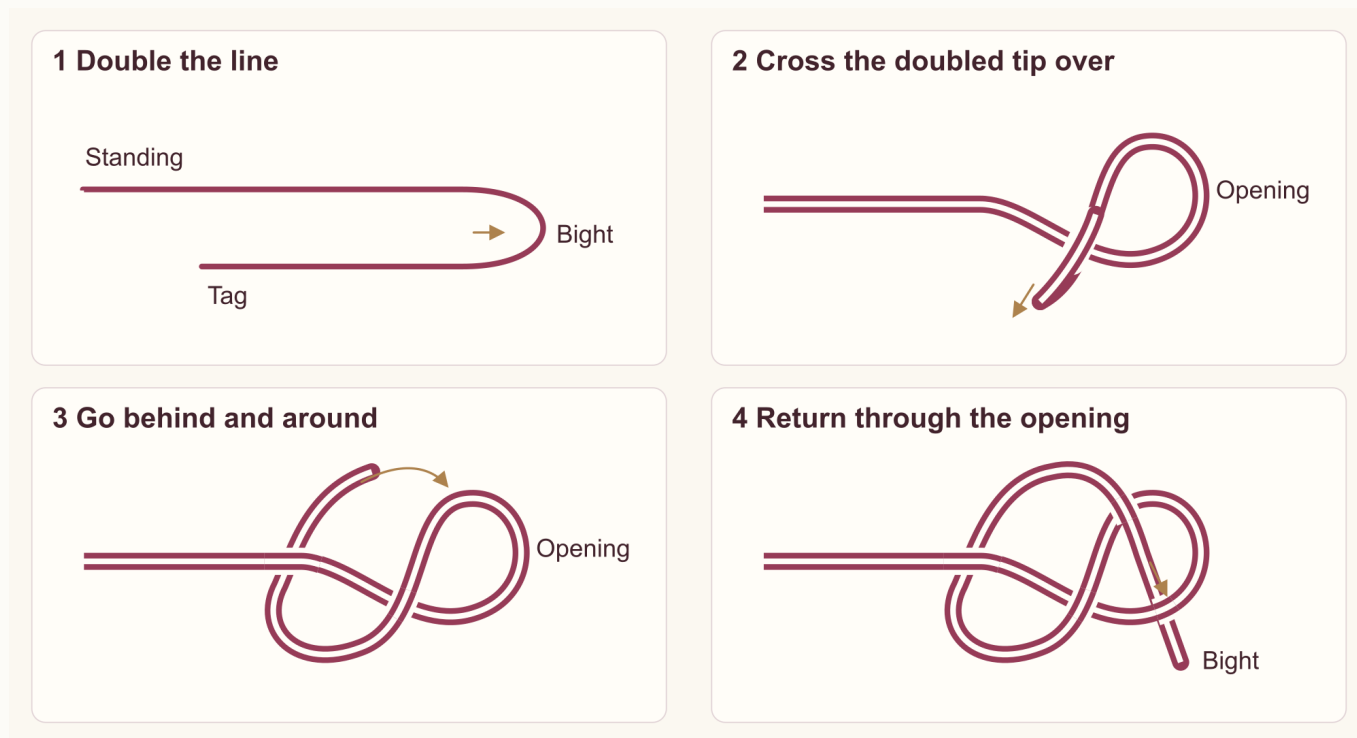
Bring the long end back through the eye from behind, exiting towards the hook point. Moisten and draw down steadily, keeping the wraps side by side. The coating should not be trapped inside these wraps. Inspect the hair gap once more, then use appropriate rig pullers for a controlled test. Remake crossed or slipping turns rather than trying to force them straight.

A small but important detail

Both the hair and the whipping use the exposed supple braid. Leave an intact coated body farther up the hooklink.

Tie a dependable joining loop

Many rigs here finish with a figure-of-eight loop. Practise this before adding a hook so you can concentrate on the line route.



Follow the doubled tip through the open knot before tightening.

Make the figure eight

Double the end of the hooklink. Cross the doubled tip over the doubled standing section to make a loop. Take the doubled tip behind and around the standing section, then bring it through the first loop. The loose knot should resemble a figure eight, rather than one simple overhand knot.

Settle it carefully

Moisten, arrange the strands neatly and draw down gradually. Use rig pullers to test the actual connection under controlled pressure. Leave a visible tag rather than trimming flush. For a compatible quick-change swivel, put the sleeve on before tying, seat the finished loop fully in the crook and slide the sleeve over it. A system requiring a direct knot needs that finish instead.

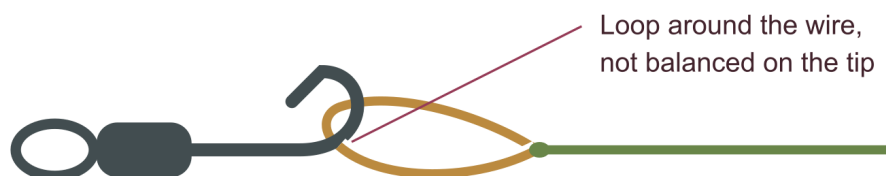
Before you trim

A moving tag, crossed strand or whitened material means start again. Extra force will not tidy a damaged knot.

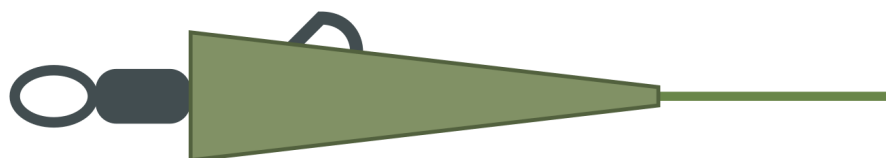
4. Finish, connect and test

Aim for roughly 15-20cm finished hooklink length for this clean-bottom practice rig. Measure after the knots, not before.

1 Seat the loop right in the crook



2 Cover the opening with the matched sleeve



For an approved quick-change finish only. A direct-knot system needs its specified connection.

Seat the loop properly and cover the quick-change crook.

Make the lead-end connection

Slide the anti-tangle sleeve onto the long end. Tie and test the figure-of-eight loop shown in “Tie a dependable joining loop”. For an approved quick-change connection, hook the loop fully into the swivel's crook and cover it with the sleeve. If your lead kit specifies a direct knot, tie to its supplied swivel instead.

Check before casting

Lower the baited rig into clear water. The sinking bait and hook should settle with the hair clear of the point. Inspect the hook under good light, test both connections and check the complete lead system. After a fish, a snag or a damaged bait, check again. If the rig comes back tangled, shorten the cast and work out why before fishing the spot again.

Your first dependable rig

Tie a few to the same dimensions and label the material. Consistency is more useful than making lots of different versions on the first evening.

There's plenty more to try

Keep this little lesson handy. When you're ready, the full book takes you further.

Inside the complete guide

- 01 · Start with the job, not the rig name
- 02 · The simple hair rig
- 03 · The blowback rig
- 04 · The KD wafter rig
- 05 · The returned-tag D-rig
- 06 · The Slip-D rig
- 07 · The pop-up multi rig
- 08 · The spinner or Ronnie rig
- 09 · The two-material combi rig
- 10 · The hinged stiff rig
- 11 · The chod rig
- 12 · The solid PVA bag setup
- 13 · The fixed zig rig
- 14 · Take the useful bits fishing

Full guide coming soon

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