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Big Game Board – Fishing Tutorials presents...

Many thanks to Reefman from the sealine.co.za Forum

„The braid stich splice“

Due to popular demand, many guys have asked for a tutorial on this connection - so here goes.

This splice has been around for many years - first developed by **Shigeshi Tanaka**, it was first done in Dacron and is known as **Tanaka's loop**.

More recently, the offshore whizzkid from ESA, **Mark de la Hey** has re-invented the connection, singing it's praises in the Jigging and Popping arena.

The logic behind this connection-

Most connections of Braid to leader require a loop in the braid. By making a knot in braid - it loses much of it's linear strength, since braid cuts into itself easily. To counteract this loss of strength, a connection without using a knot would be the join of choice.

Uses -

- There is no doubt that this is probably one of the strongest ways to make a loop in braid. This in itself makes it an excellent choice for forming a loop to make a Cats Paw knot, when joining **Braid backing to mainline**.
- Also very useful in making the loop for braid to be joined to a **Wind-on leader** or a **Twisted Leader** in Jigging and Popping, by use of the Modified Cats Paw knot.

Drawbacks -

The knot is technique sensitive... you need a lot of light, VERY good eyes and a stable platform. To make the join at home is easy, so using it to join Braid backing to Mainline is a good choice. If you spool your reel up with a leader at home, this would also be a good choice. However, to do this connection on the beach, or on a rocking boat - would take a particularly gifted person to complete with any degree of consistency.

Finishing -

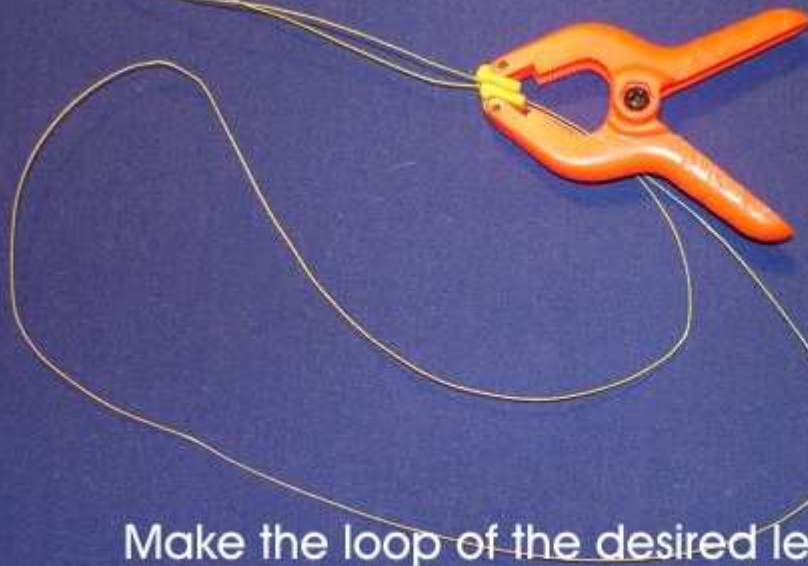
The connection is finished off most often by just snipping the tag end of the braid. We have tried it with Half hitches and Uni wraps, but this weakens the whole knot substantially. So just snip the Tag end and make sure you do at least 14 stitches.

Hope this helps someone out there!

THE BRAID STITCH SPLICE



This splice is used to make a Loop in Braid.



Make the loop of the desired length
and clamp it to stop it slipping.

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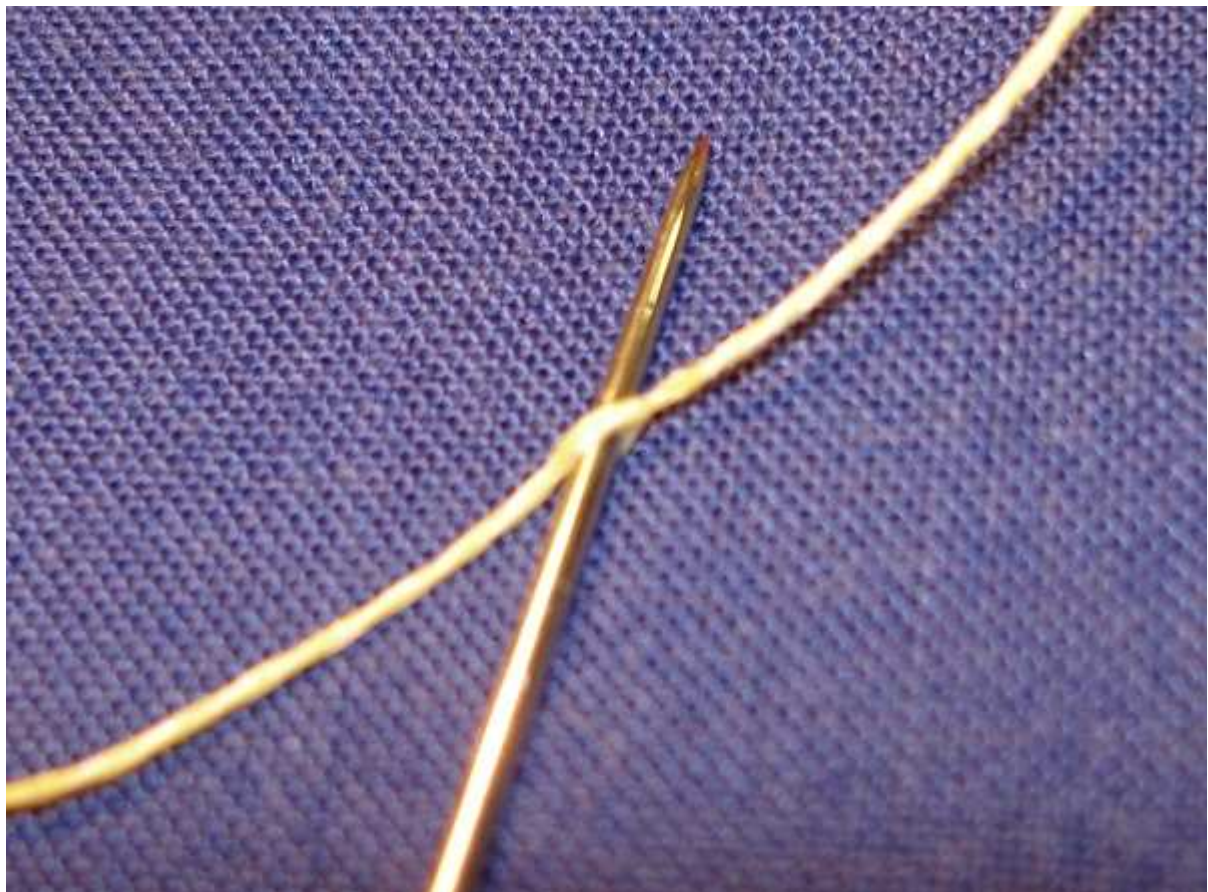
Thread the tag end through the eye of the needle...

Now pierce the needle through the braid, piercing it as near to the centre of the braid as possible.

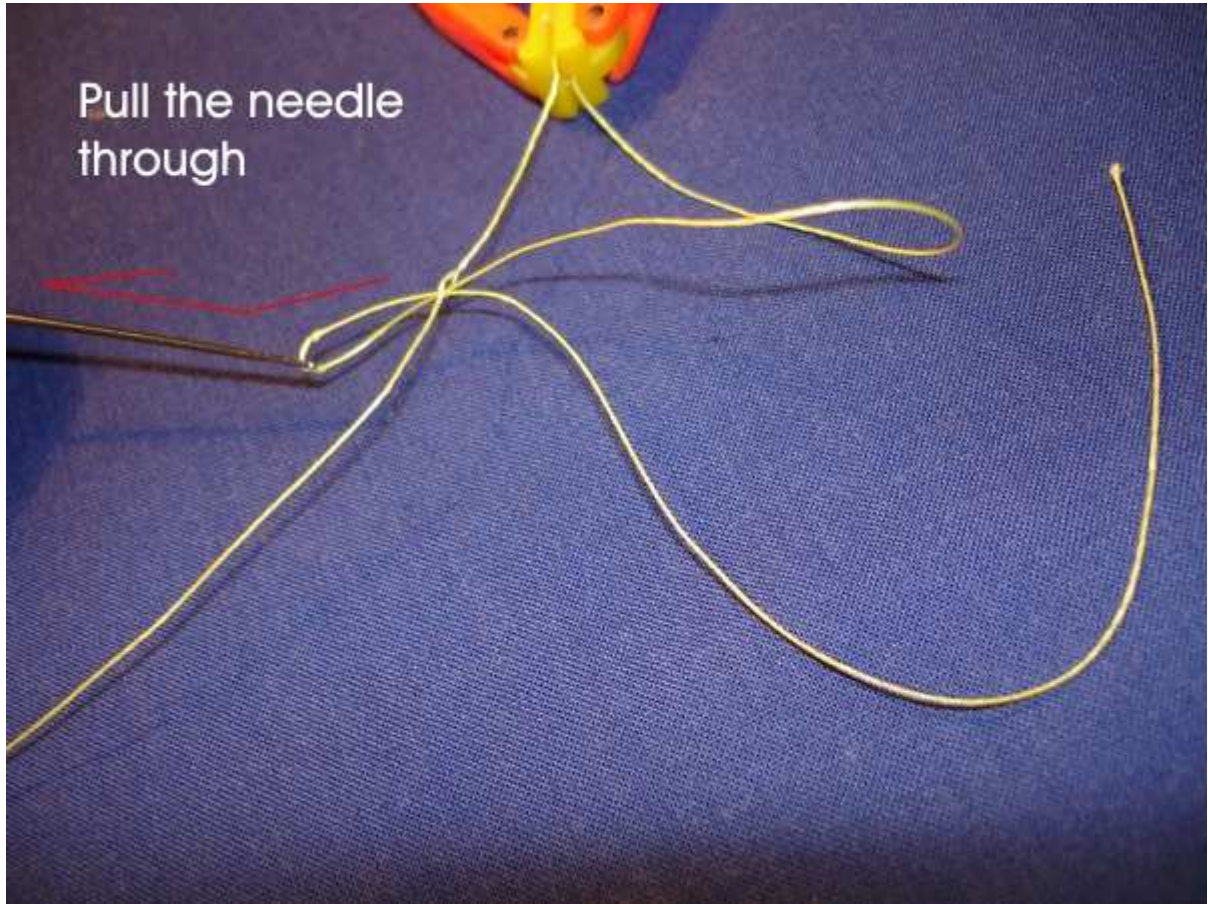


To prevent stabbing yourself repeatedly (!)
lie the braid flat on a table covered by a cloth.
By doing this, you can also aim for the middle of
the braid easier.

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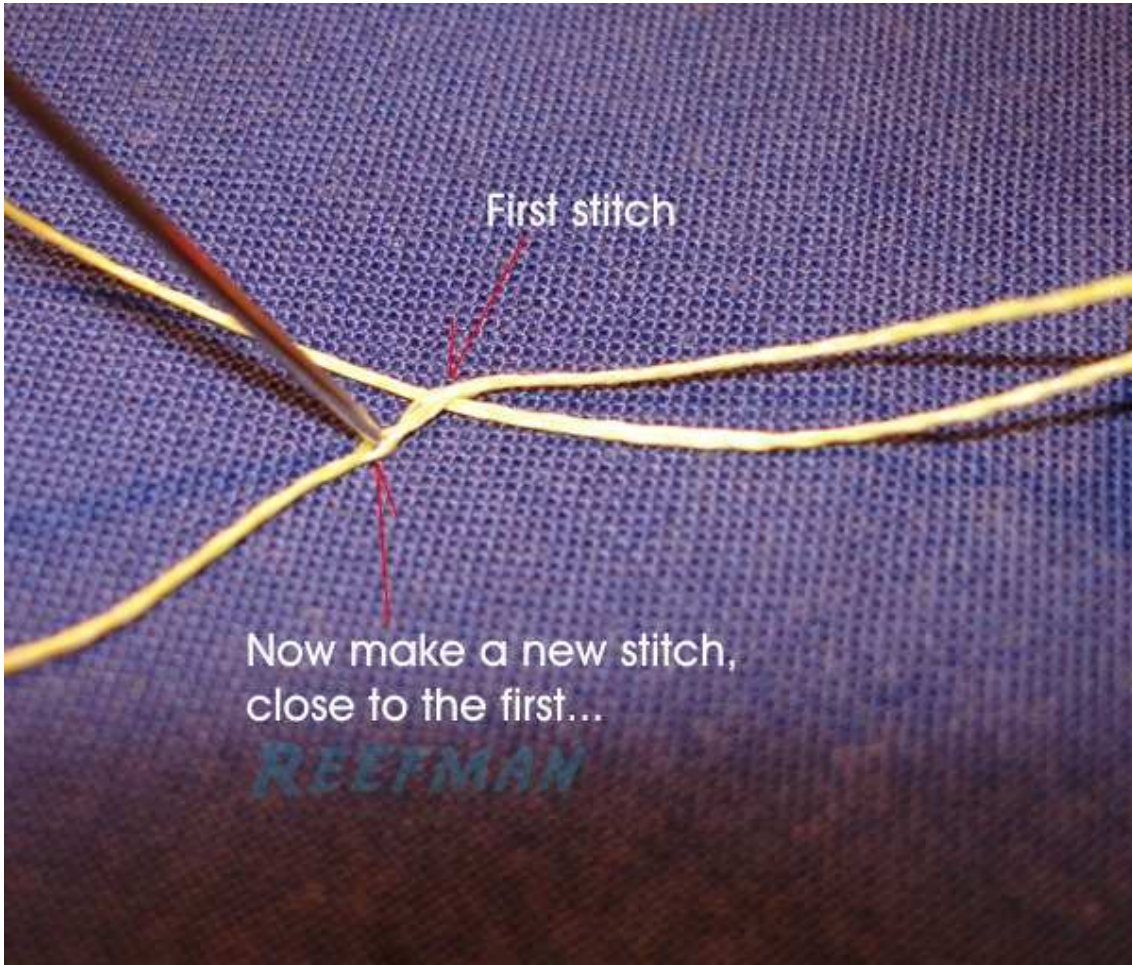


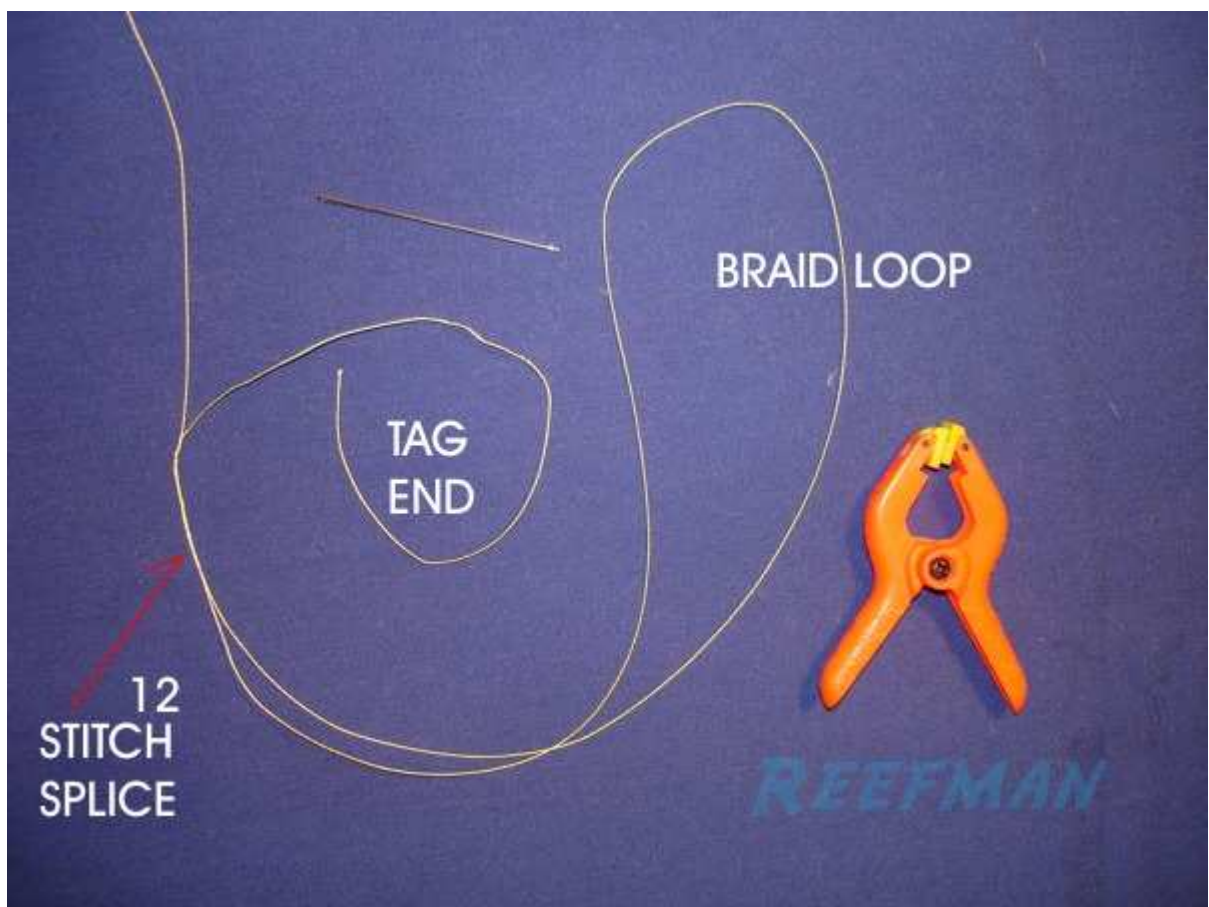
Pull the needle
through



Needle and tag end
pulled through



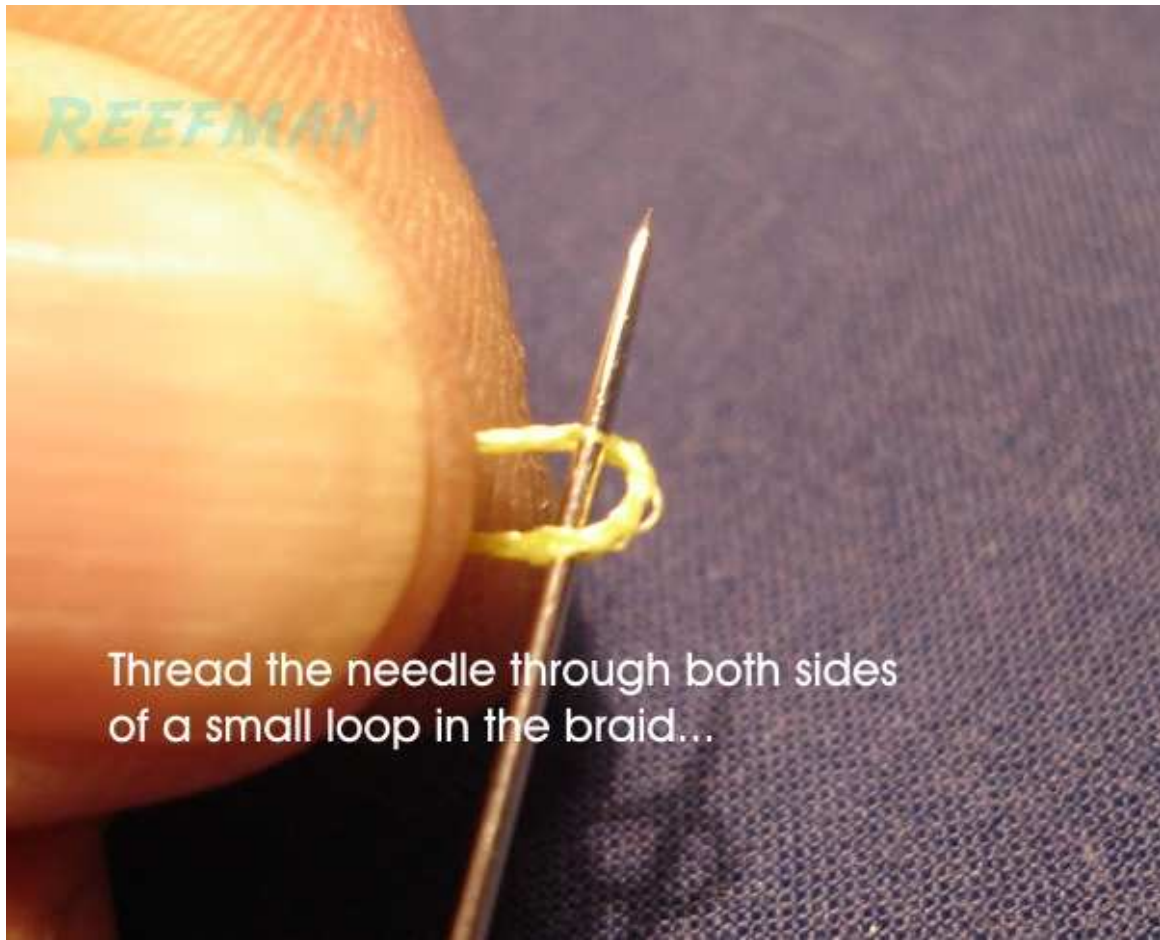






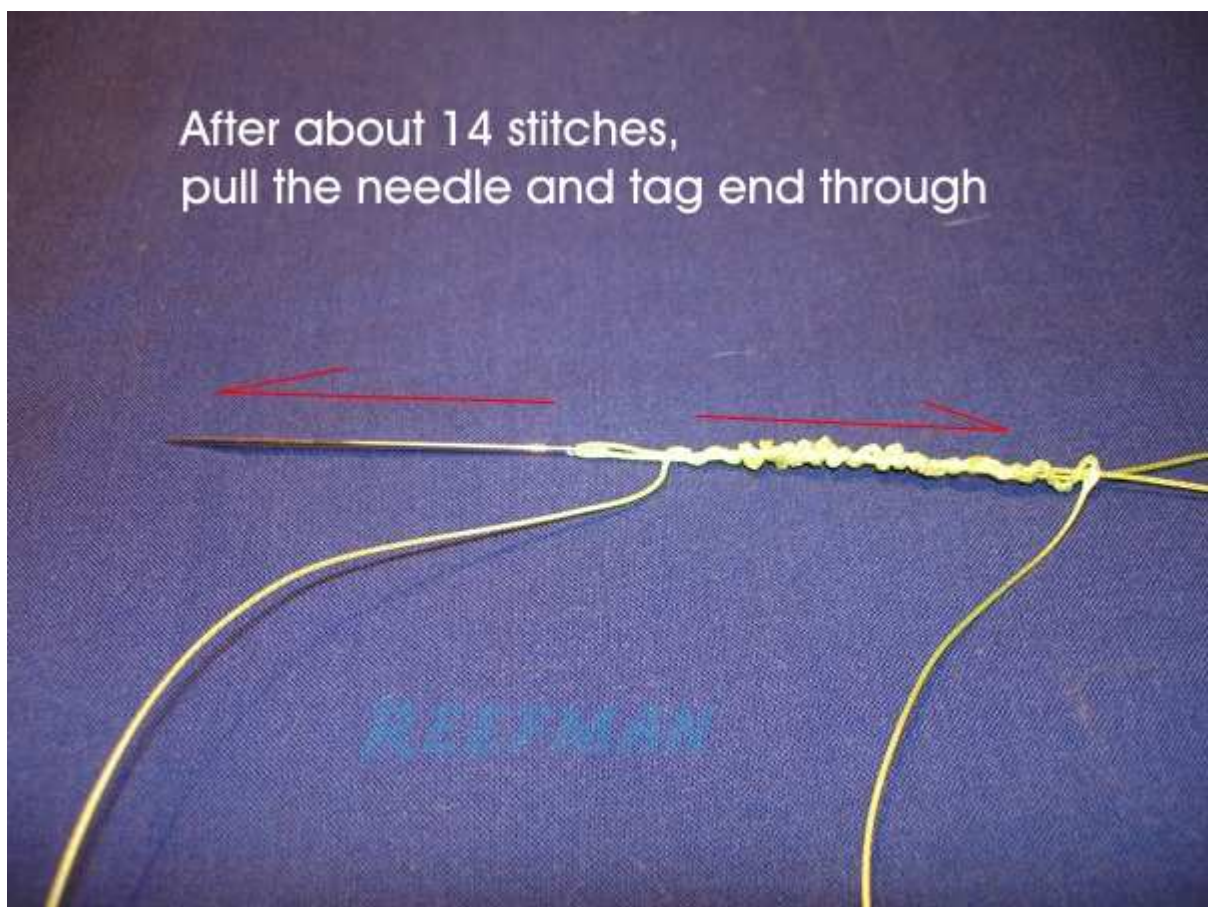
An alternate way to doing the stitches... instead of pulling the tag through each time, you can thread all the stitches onto the needle, and once finished stitching, pull the needle through once... easier to do.

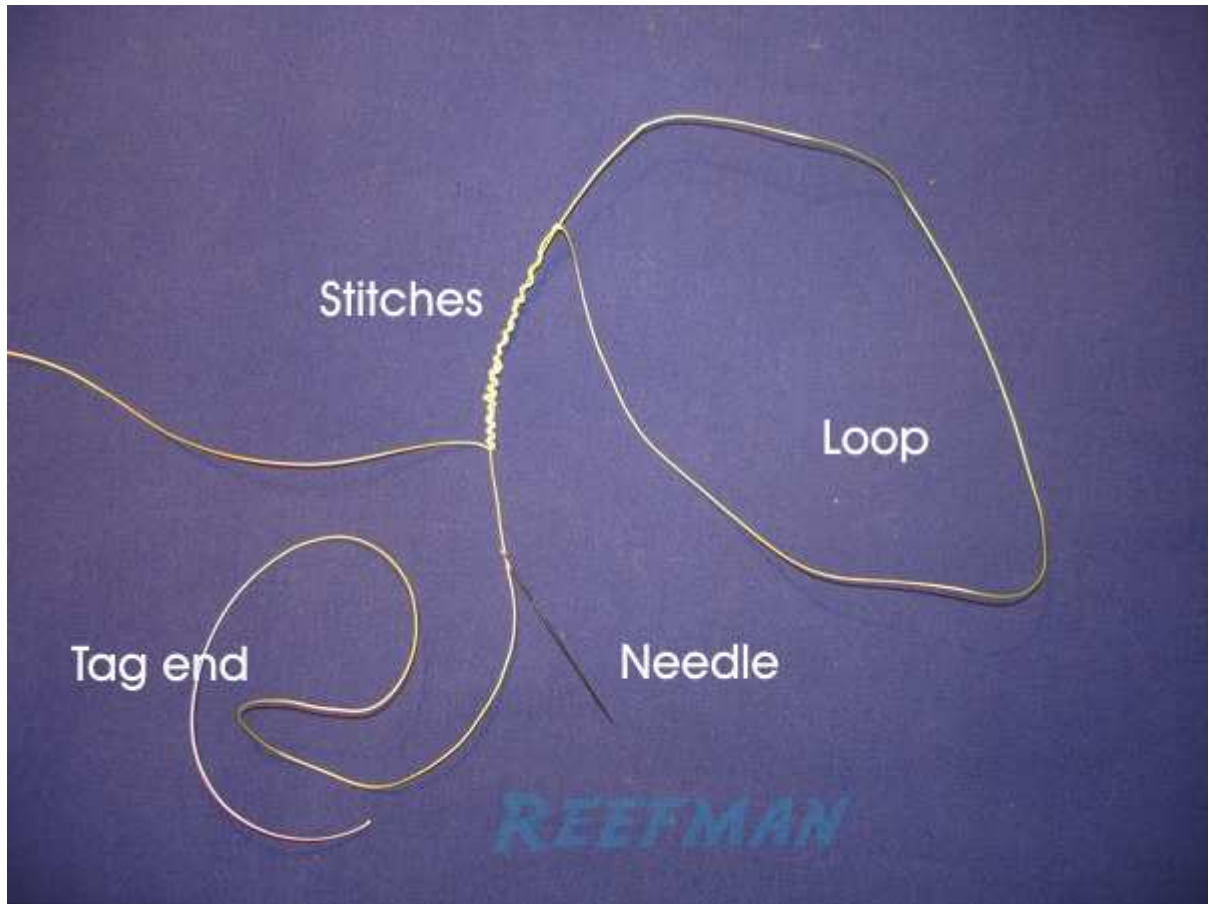




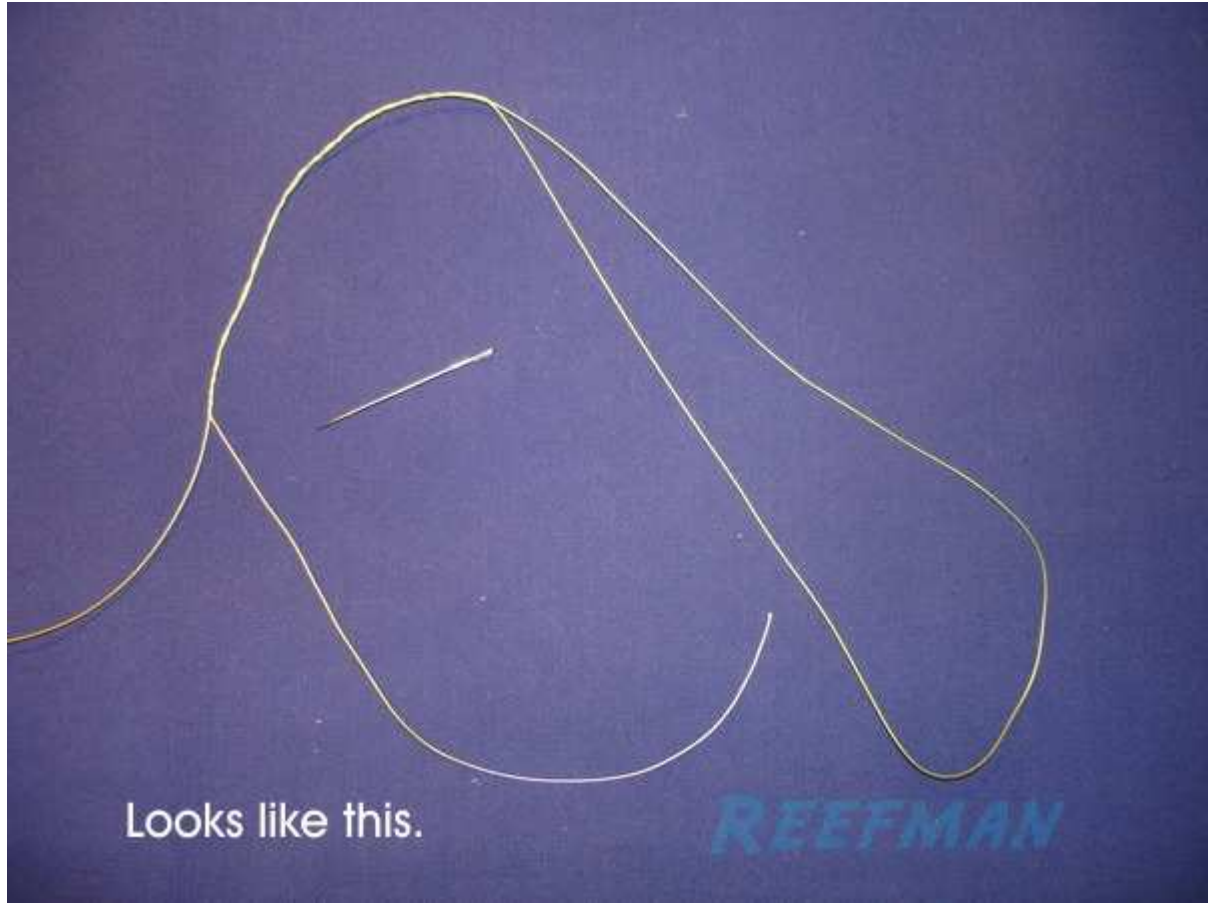
Thread the needle through both sides of a small loop in the braid...







12-20 stitches... you chose which works best. Snip off the tag end. Voila!



The tutorial above was done with **30lb** Tuffline - it gets much easier when you use thicker braid...

It seems from my preliminary tests, that this knot works much better **without any half-hitches or Uni wraps** or whatever.

Best way to do it is just snip off the tag end once you've finished the stitches... easy as that and VERY strong!