

The background of the slide features a close-up, sepia-toned photograph of fly fishing equipment. In the upper left, a large spool of white fly line is visible. A section of the fly line extends diagonally across the frame. In the lower right, a pair of fishing forceps or pliers is shown, with a loop of the fly line held between its jaws. The overall aesthetic is that of a vintage or instructional manual.

How to make strong loops to your fly lines and shooting heads

By Hispánica

Materials



- Hollow braided mono 50 lbs
- Splicing needle
- Darning needle
- Scissors
- Razor blade
- 0,25 mm monofilament
- Cyanoacrylate Loctite 435
- Aquaseal or Aquasure
- Toluene or Xylene
- Acetone
- ...and a fly line, of course!

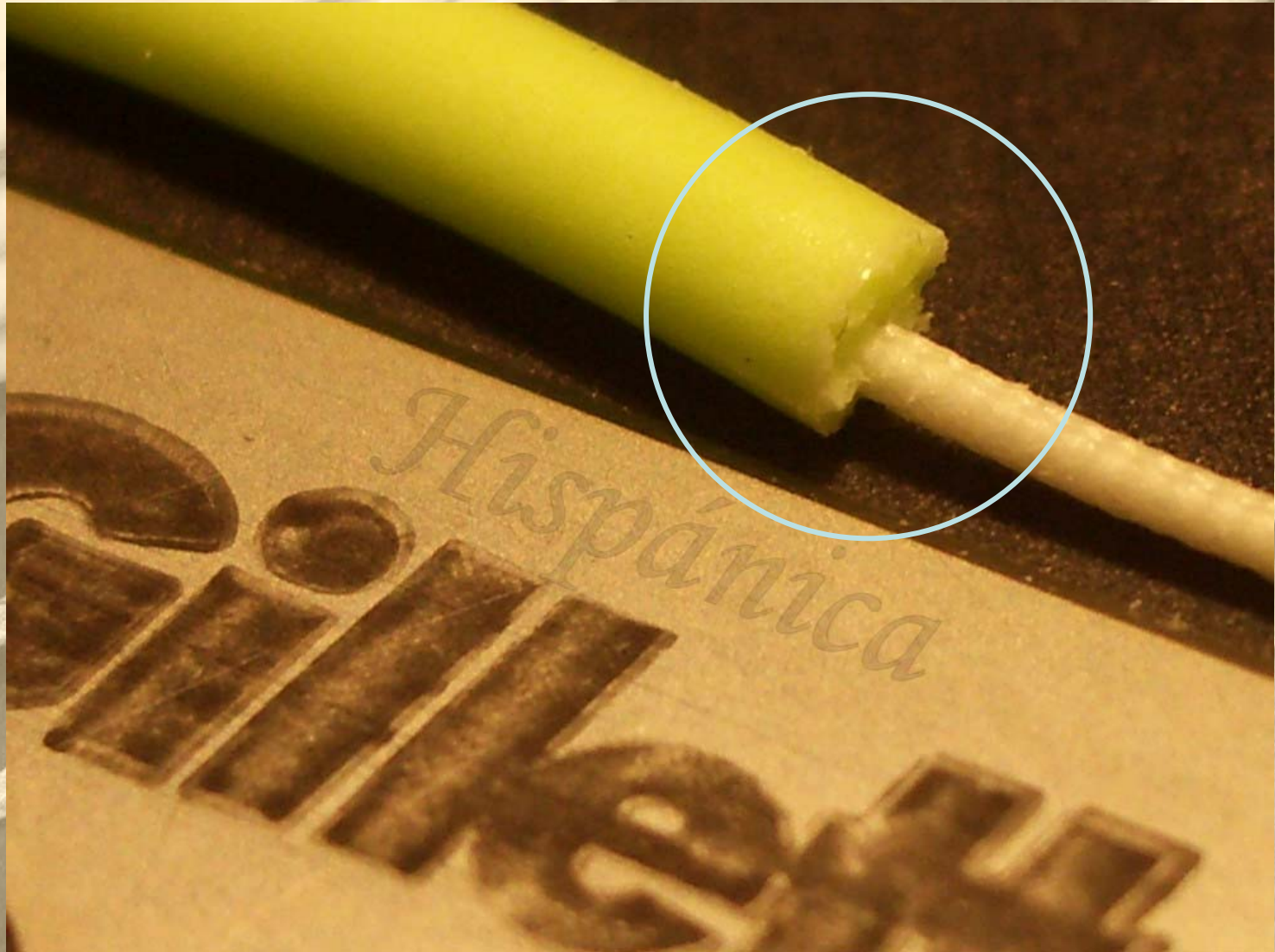
- **STEP 1: BUTT LOOP.** Submerge around 6 cm (in this case the butt of a Shooting Head) in acetone for a few minutes, allowing the plastic coating to soften enough for the next step.



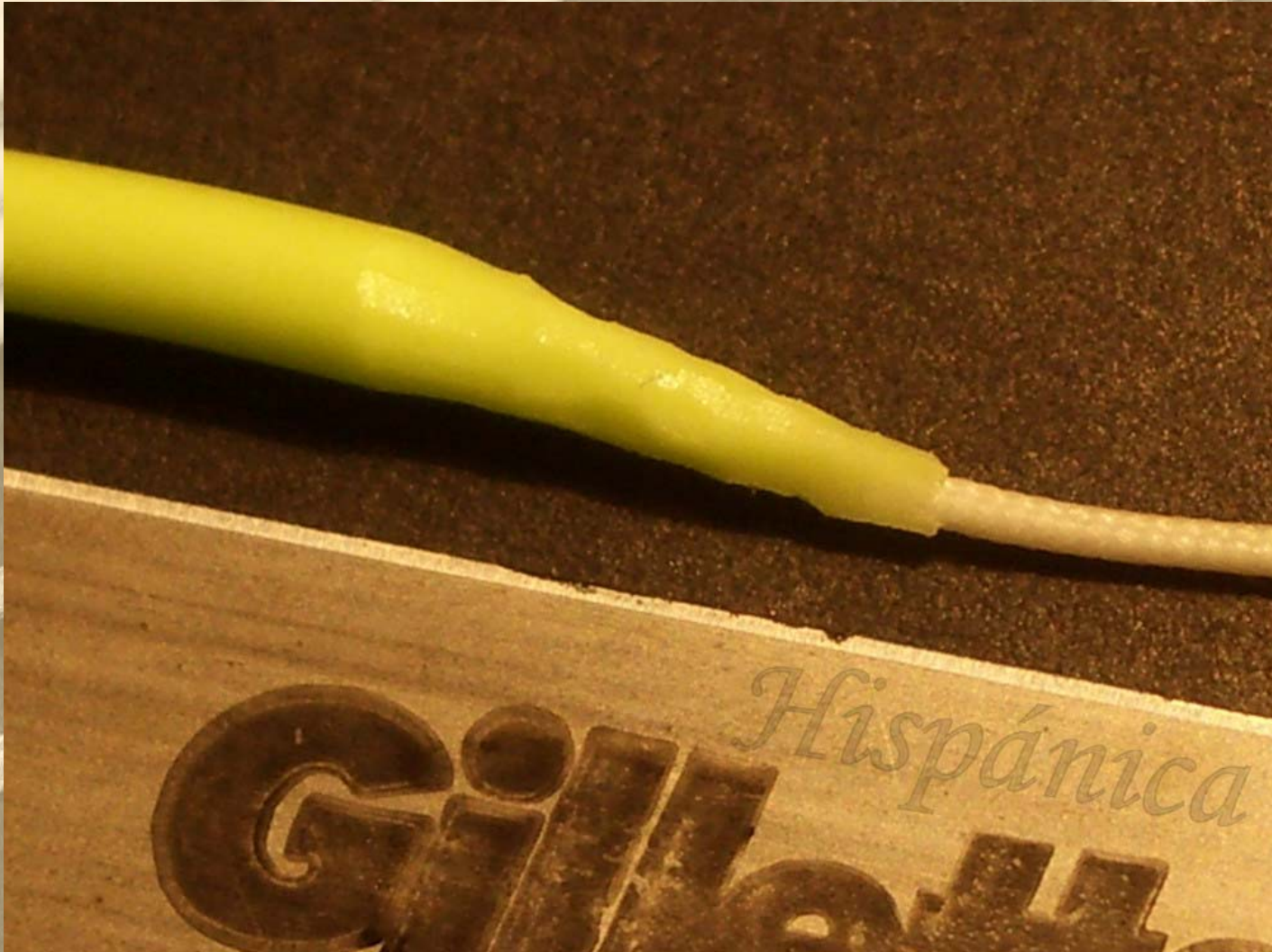
- **STEP 2:** Once the plastic coating has softened enough, strip it with your nails uncovering the core (here of braided multifilament; no problem with nylon mono cores).



- The end of the coating is still too abrupt.



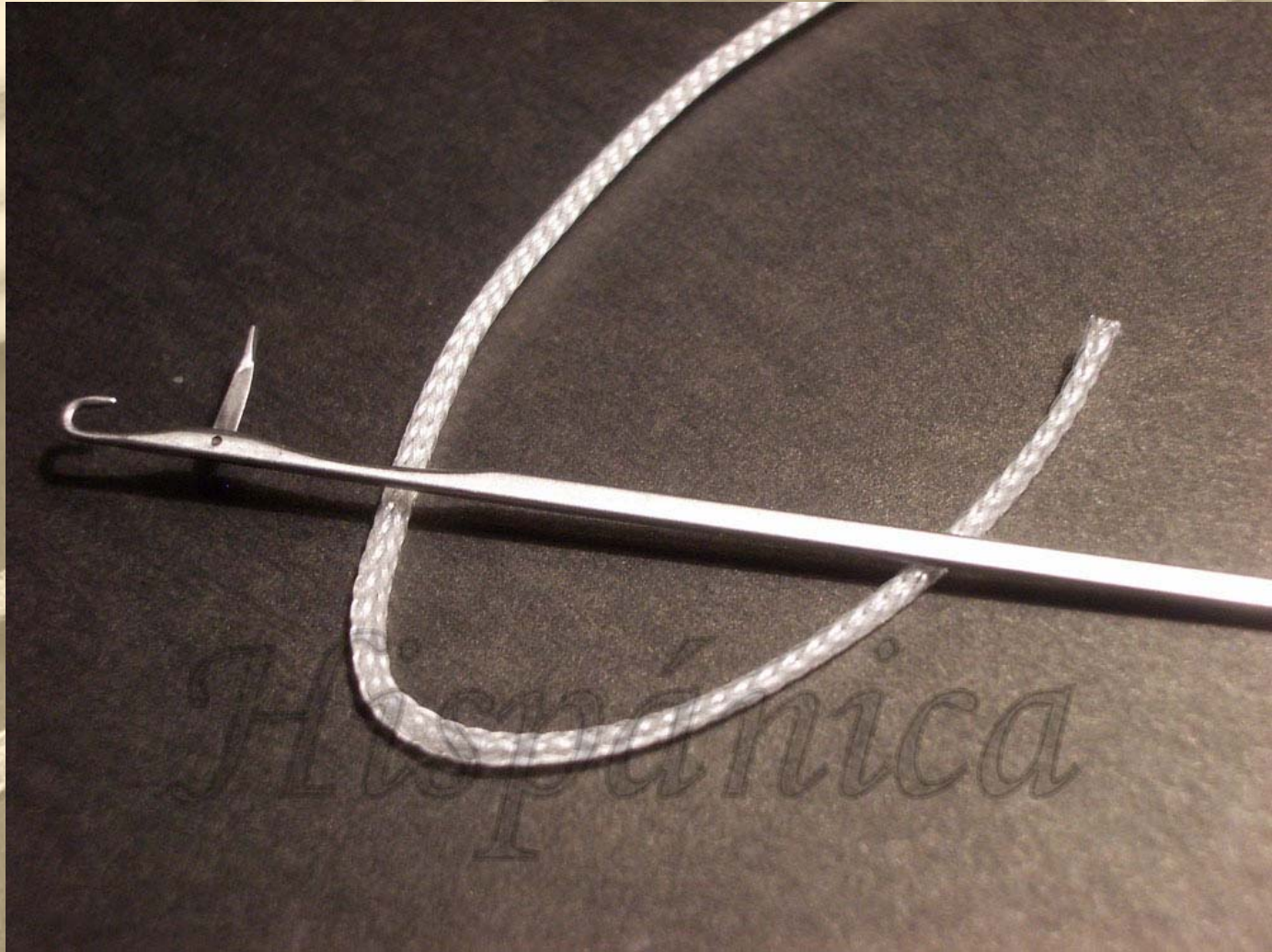
- **STEP 3:** Using a razor blade, sharpen about 10-12 mm of the end of the coating, being careful not to damage the core.



- **STEP 4:** Cut approx. 12 cm of 50 lbs braided line.



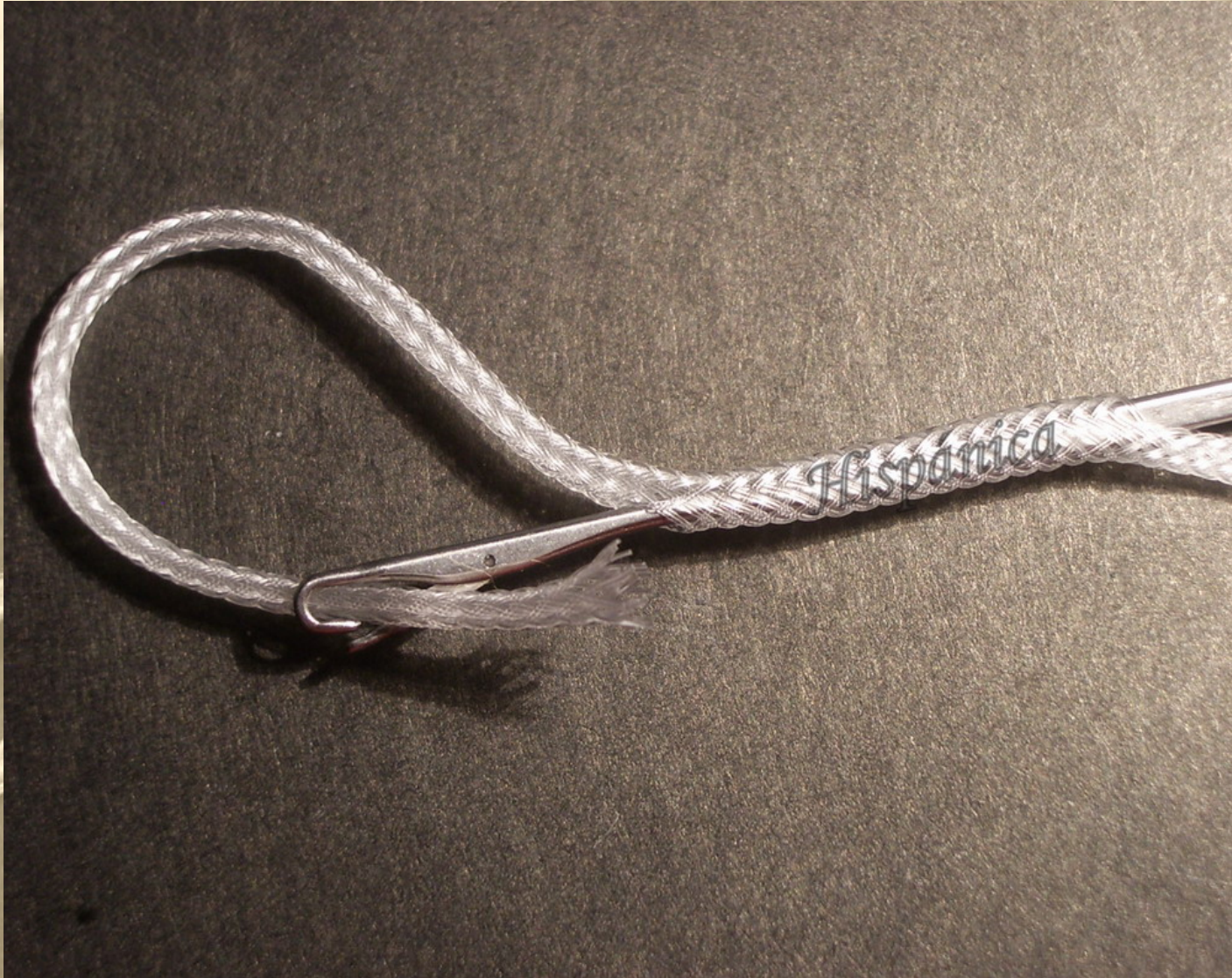
- **STEP 5:** Bend the braid at about 4 cm from one end.



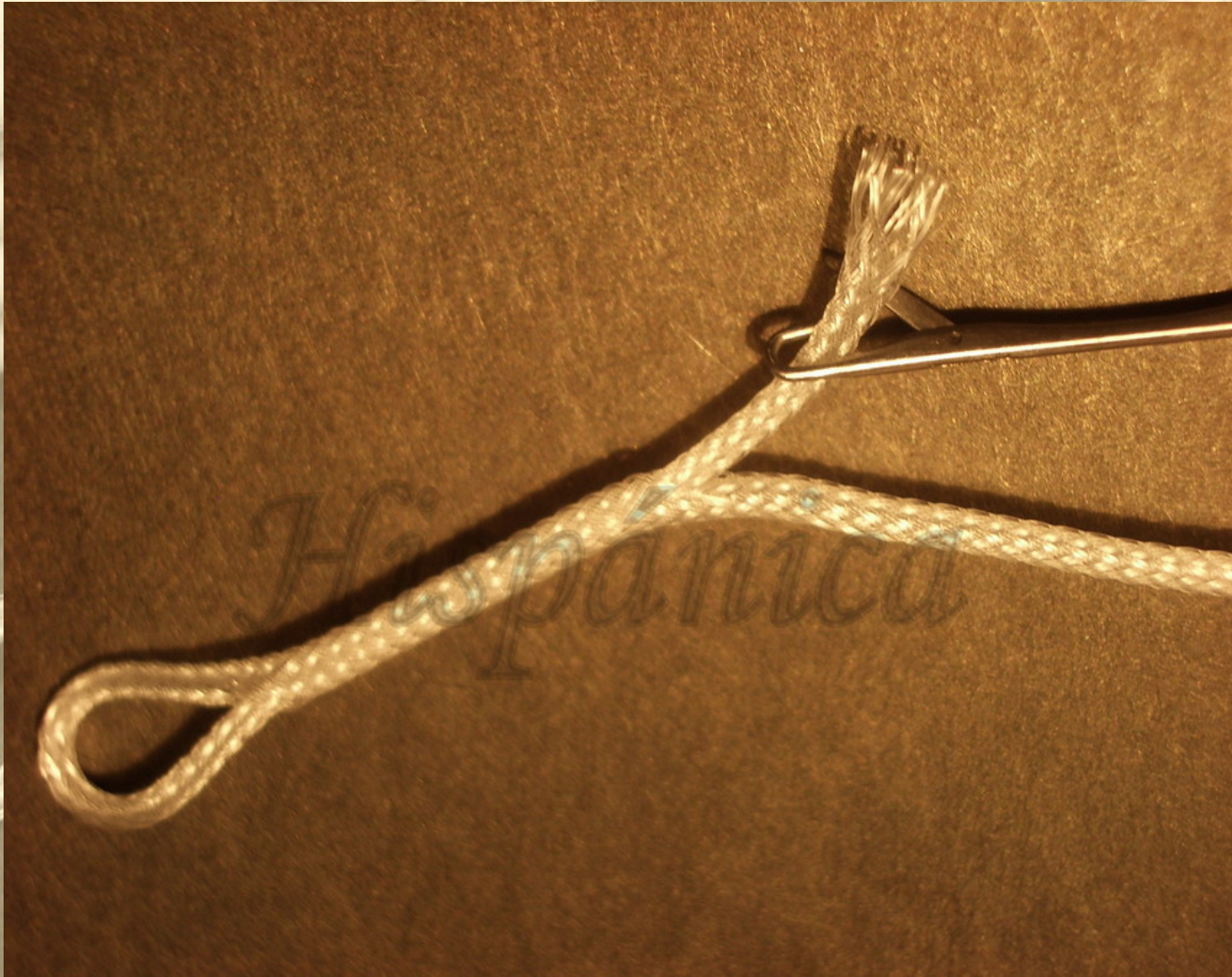
- **STEP 6:** Insert the splicing needle tool at about 3 cm behind the bend, go forward 1,5 cm through the braid and take the point out.



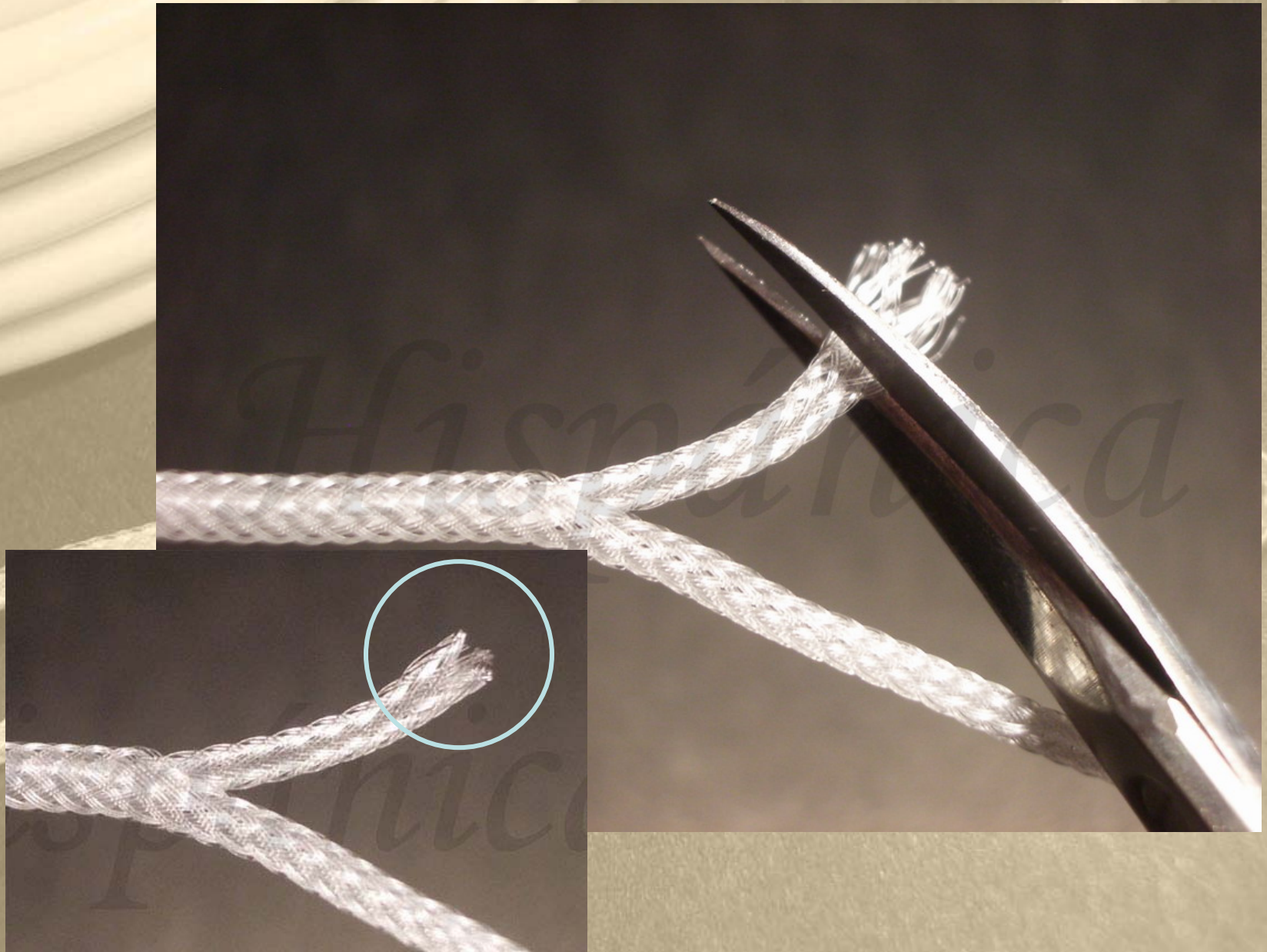
- **STEP 7:** Hook the end of the braid with the splicing needle.



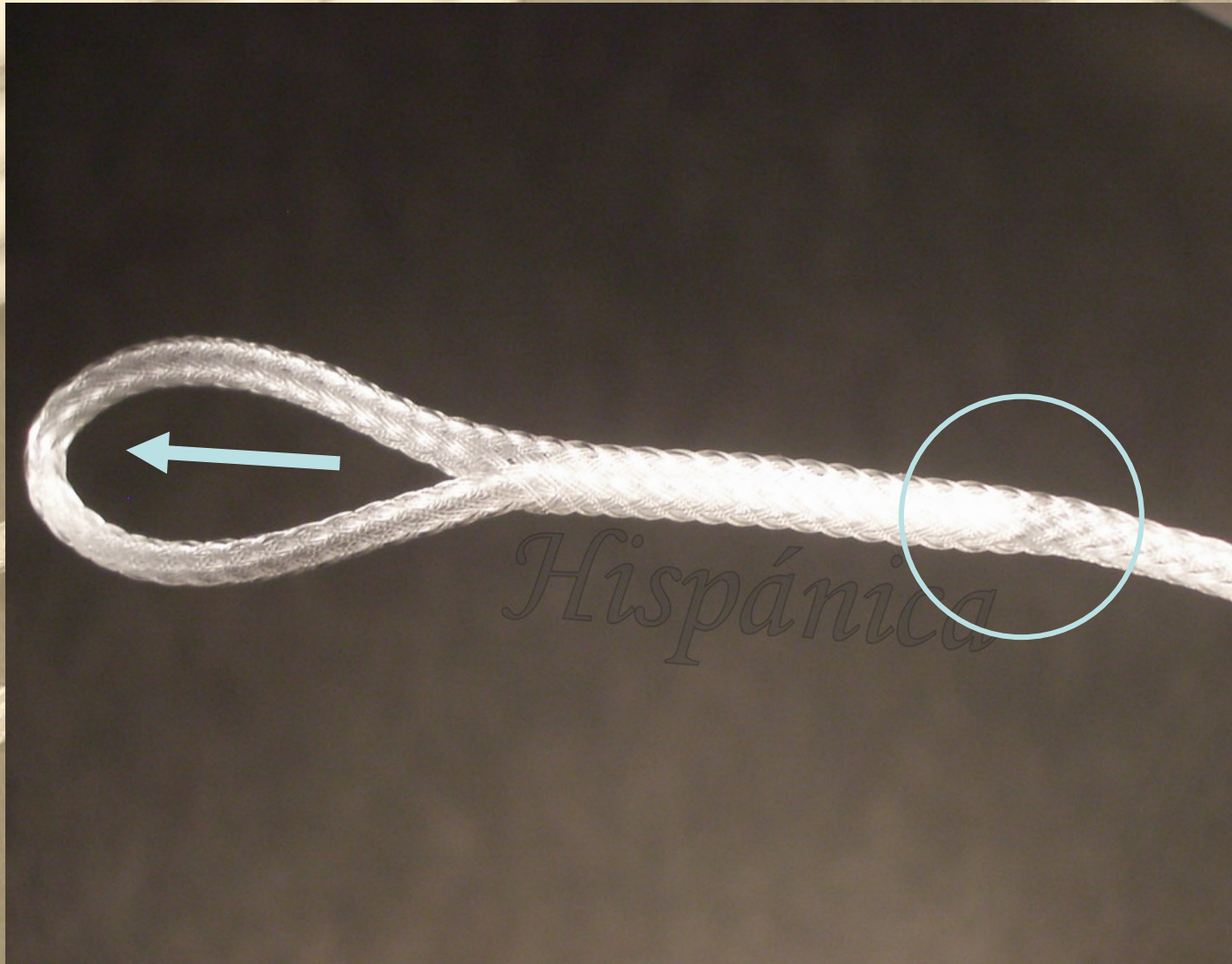
- **STEP 8:** Go back with the needle to pull out the end of the braid.



- **STEP 9:** Trim accurately the barbs (a clean cut will help you later).



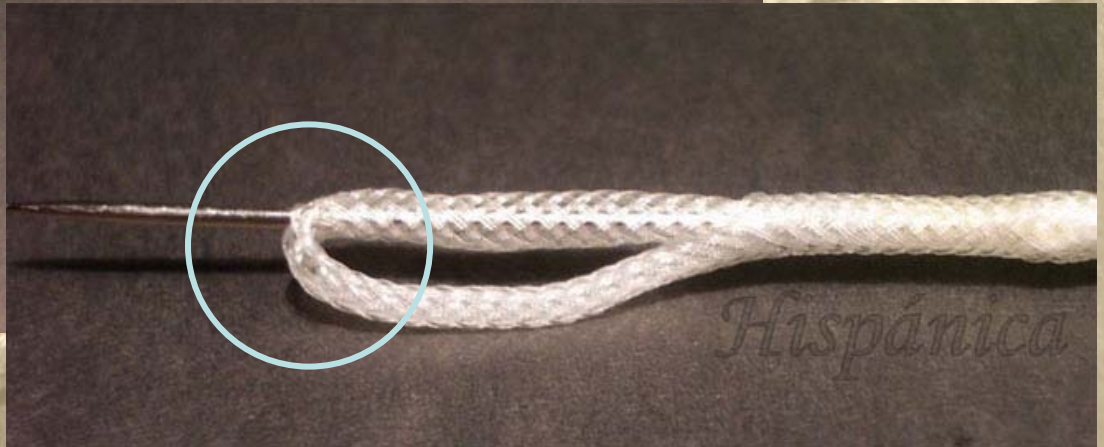
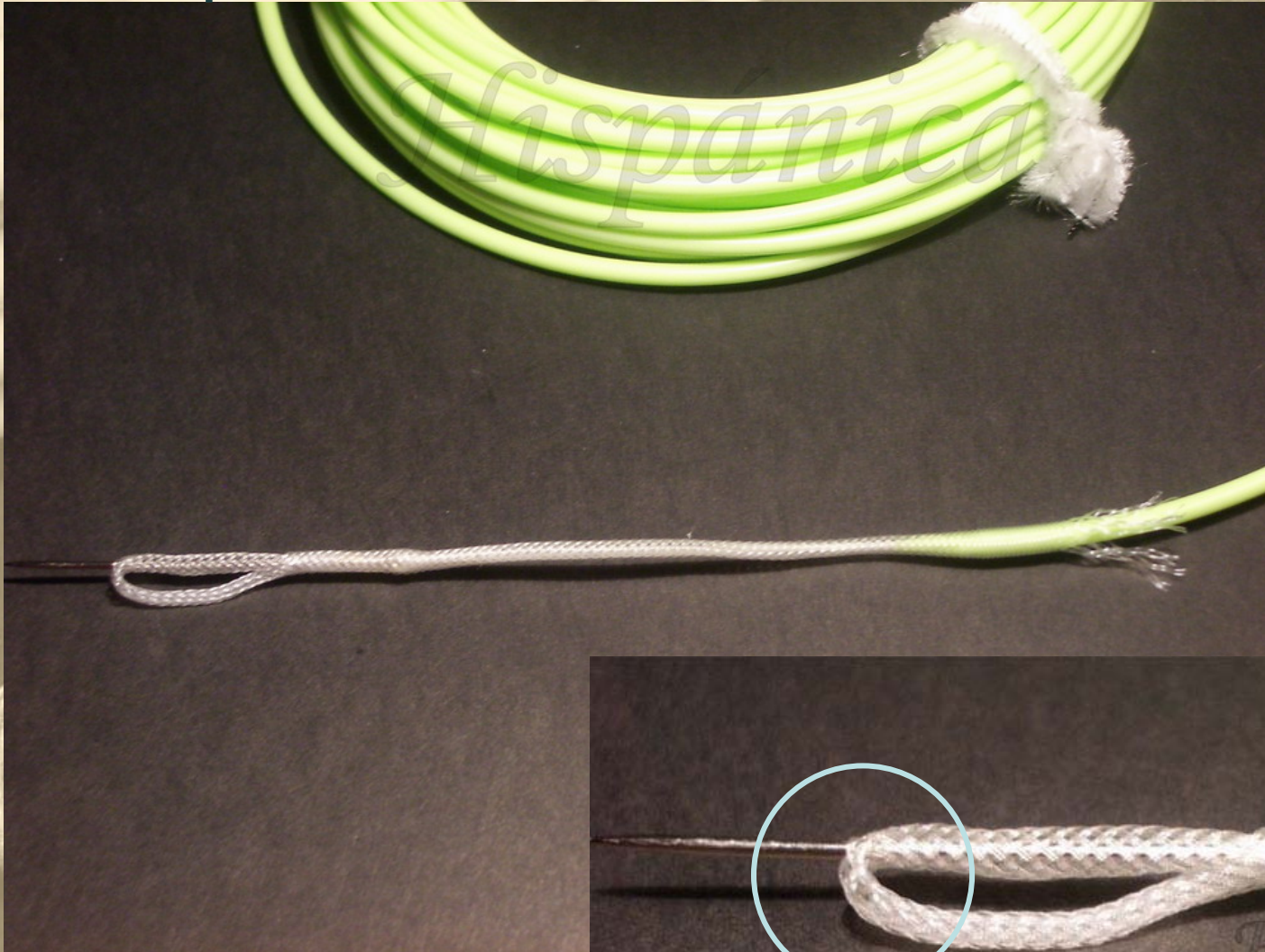
- **STEP 10:** Pull the loop gently to reinsert the end, and adjust the loop size. The stretch of braid inside the main braid must be no less than 1,5 cm in length.



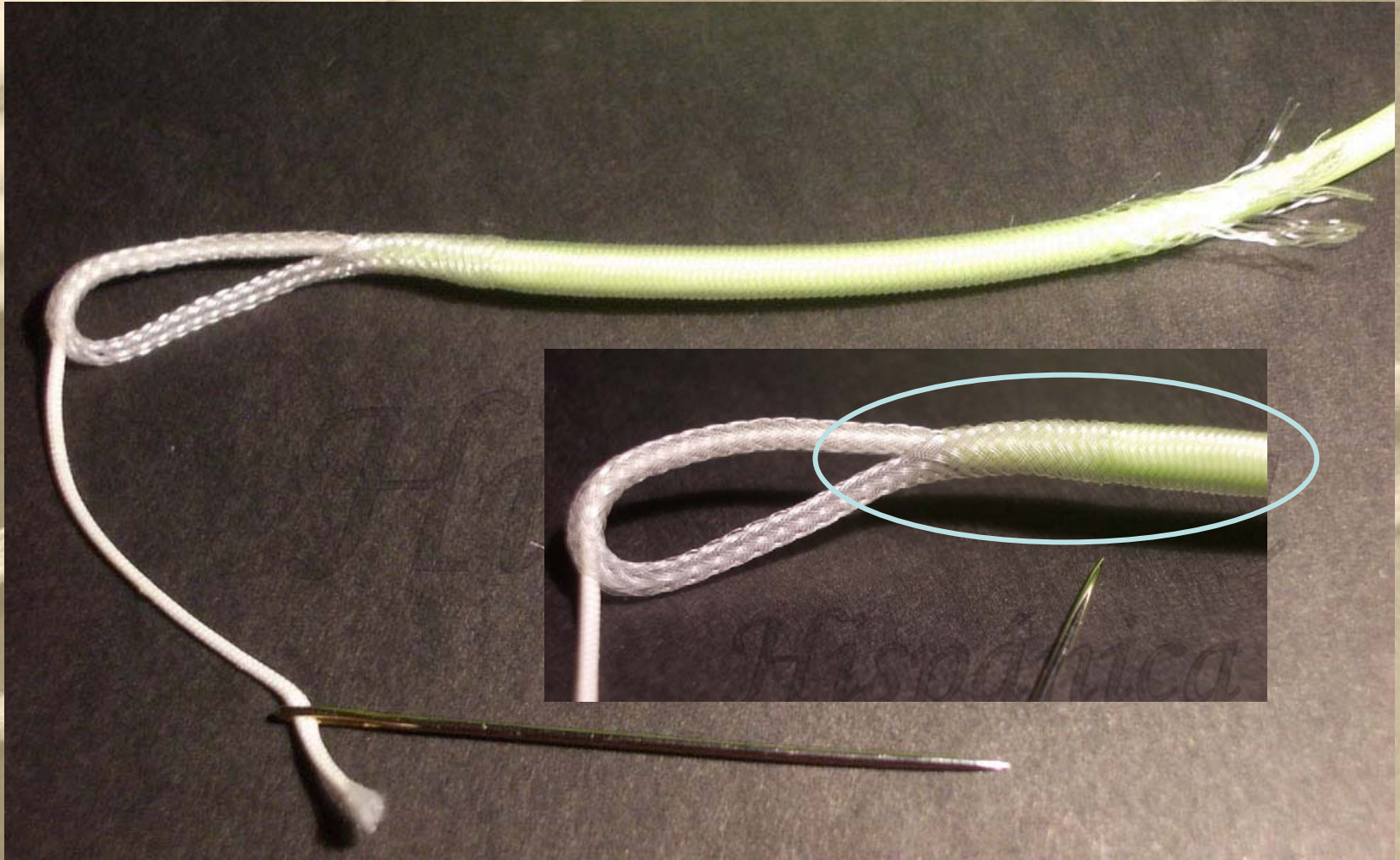
- **STEP 11:** Pass the core of the line through the darning needle eye, and thread this one into the free end of the braid.



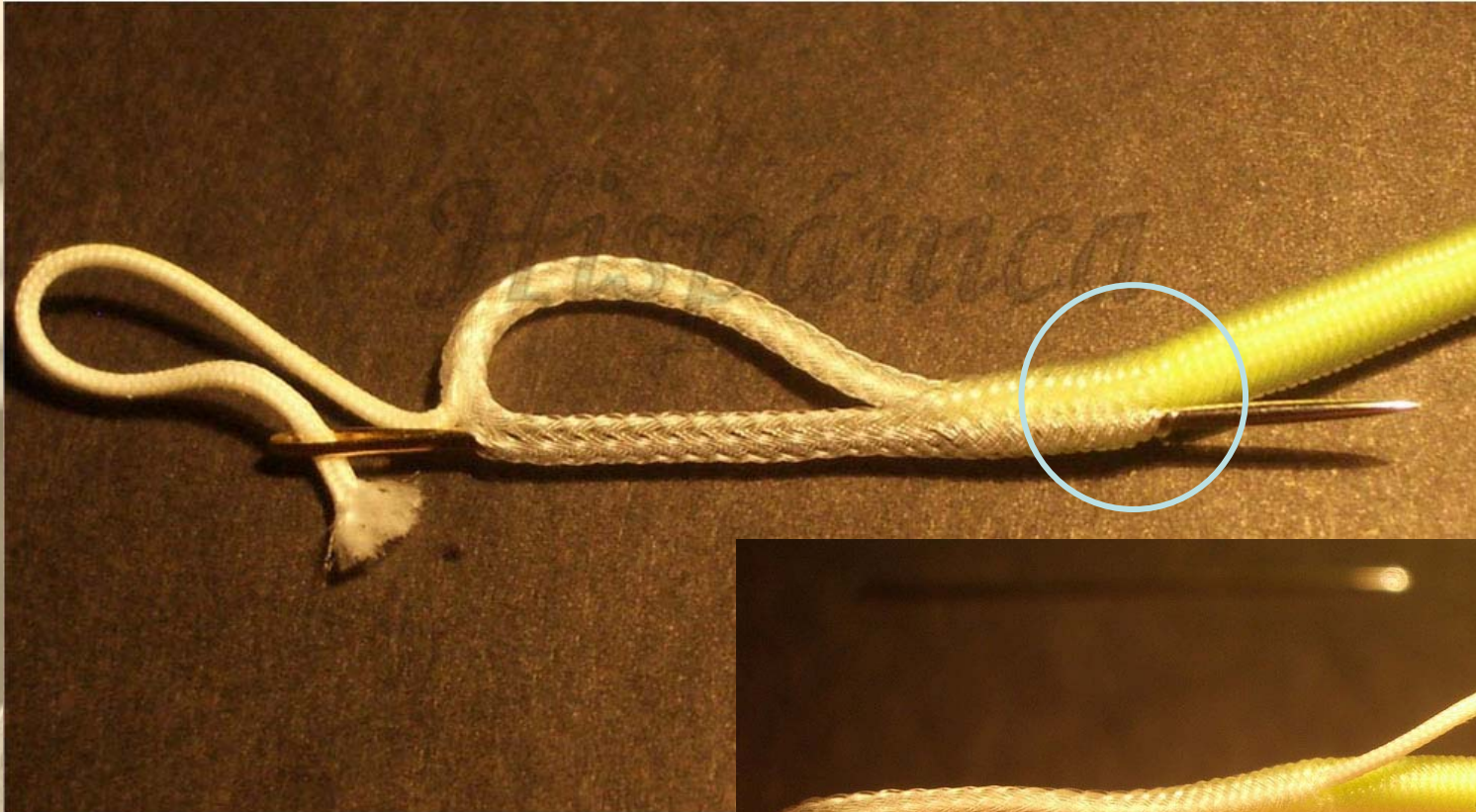
- **STEP 12:** Slide it through the braid and take it out at the bend of the loop.



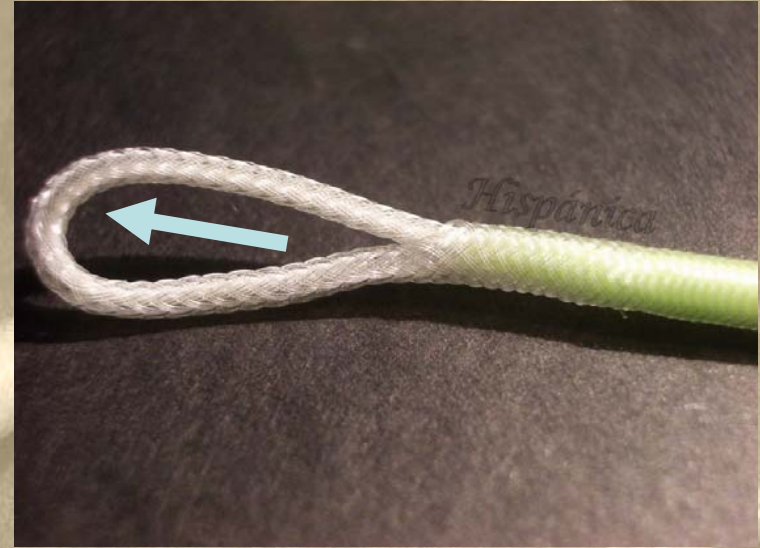
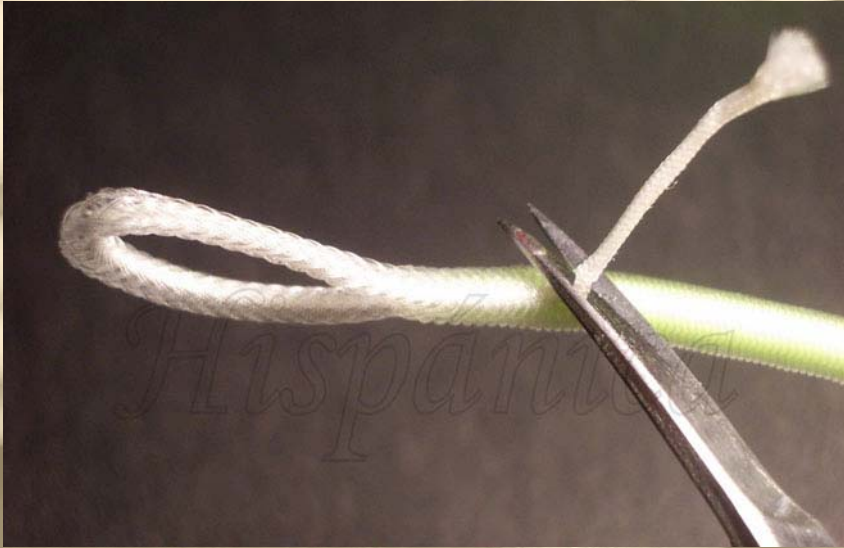
- **STEP 13:** Pull carefully the core of the line, making sure that the line coating reaches the start of the loop and that the inside braid doesn't shrink, mantaining its lenght of 1,5 cm.



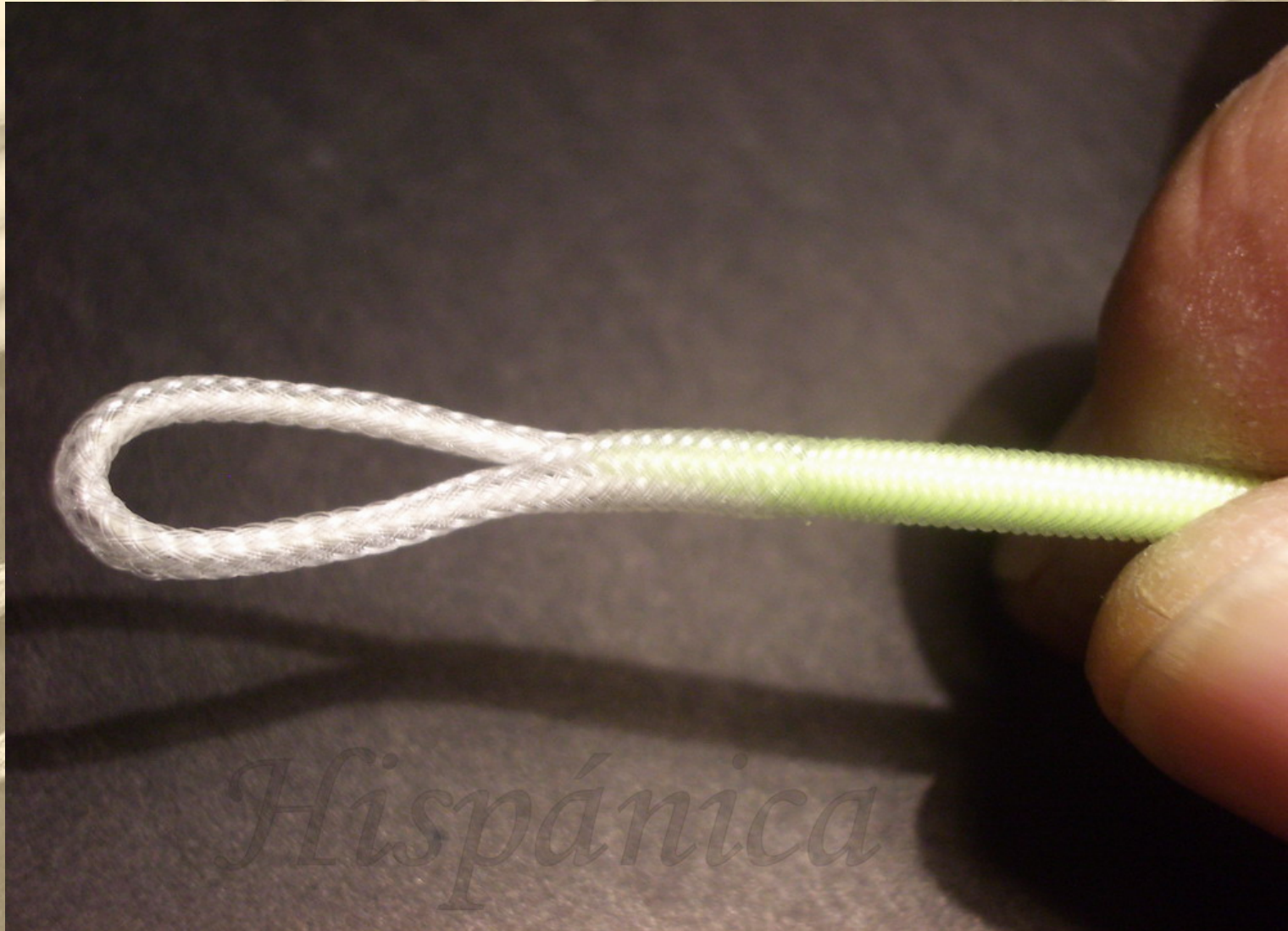
- **STEP 14:** Thread again the core into the braid with the darning needle. Start just in the outlet point so no core remains exposed, and finish at the back end of the two layers of braid.



- **STEP 15:** Trim the excess of core and gently pull the loop just to reinsert it.



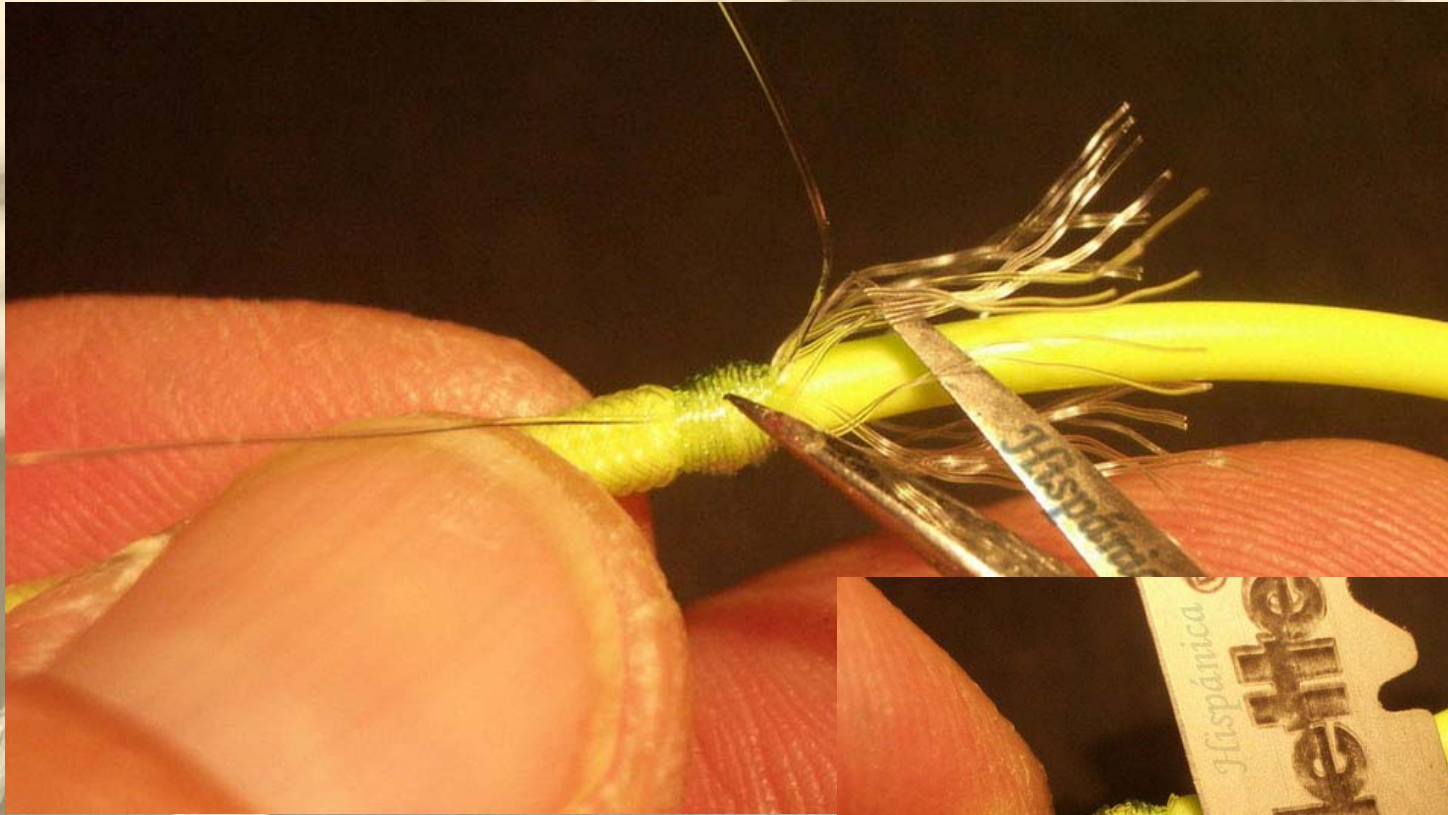
- The loop is already built, and should look like this one:



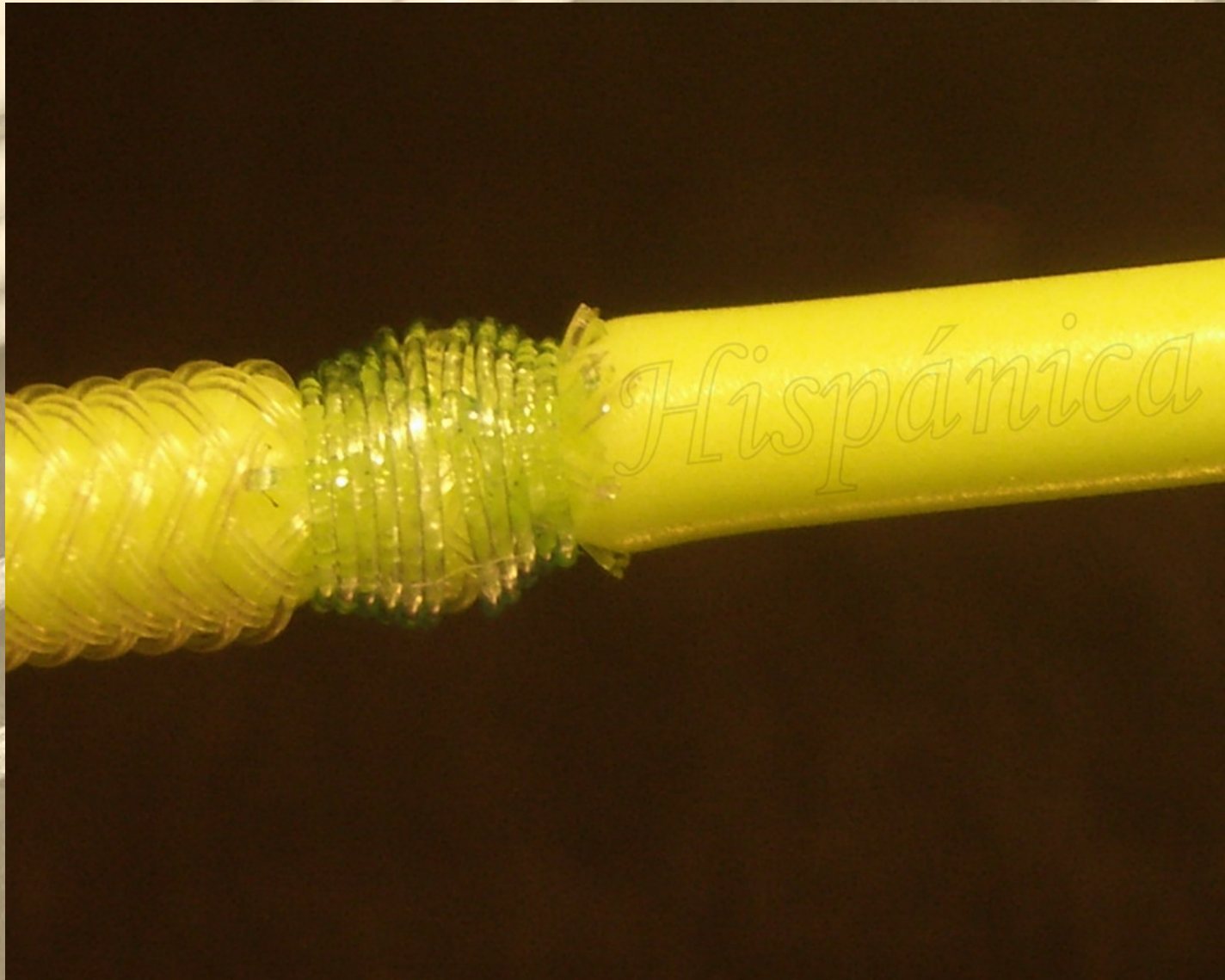
- **STEP 16:** Tie a needle knot with 0,25 mm mono (11-12 turns enough) at about 4-5 cm behind the loop. Tighten the knot with some pressure, but avoiding too much strangulation on the line.



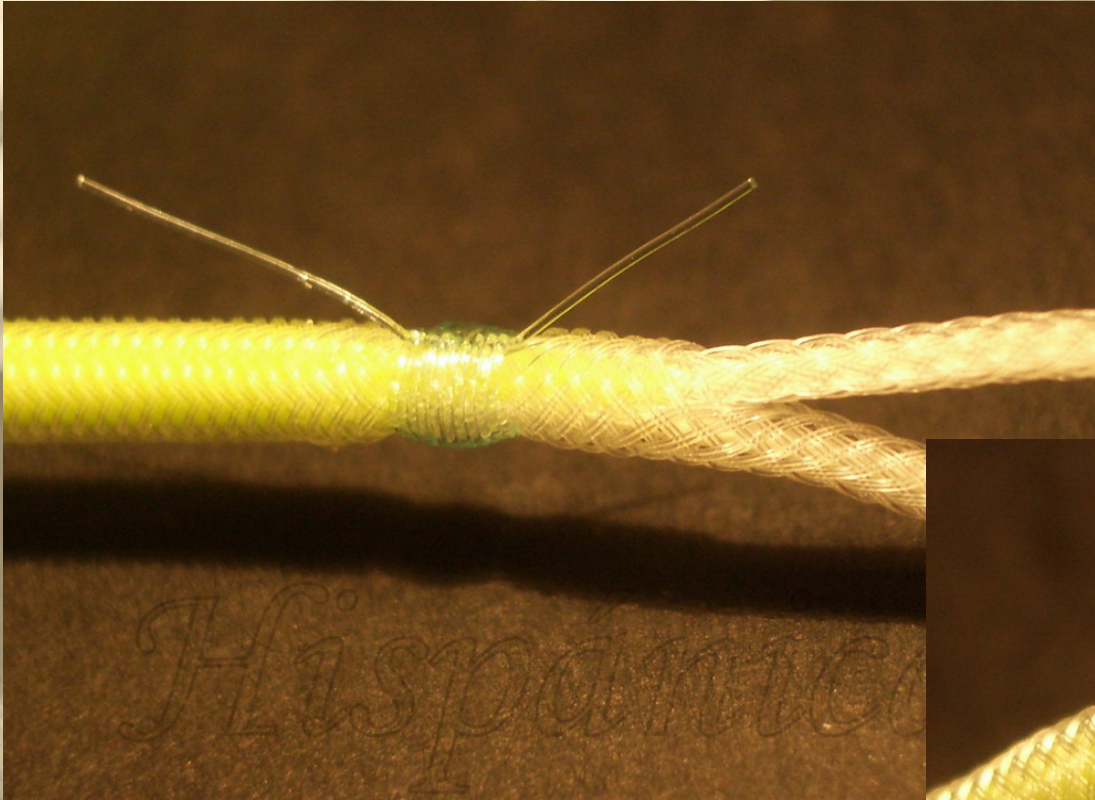
- **STEP 17:** Trim accurately the spare braid fibers (first with the scissors and next with the blade) and the loose ends of mono.



- This is how your needle knot should look:



- **STEP 18:** Tie a similar needle knot at about 2 mm behind the start of the loop, making sure of catching the core of the line and the double braid. Trim accurately the loose ends.



- The loop is ready to be fixed. This process should consist not only of applying a glue, but also of making a soft and flexible coat over each knot. It allows gentle slidings through the rod guides and avoids the cracking of the line coating in the back knot area.



- **STEP 19:** Apply carefully some Cyanocrylate 435 on both knots. Distribute it with a needle, not spreading more than 1 mm at the sides of each knot. Let dry.



- Loctite 435 is a special cyanoacrylate perfect for this and other uses in tackle due to its clarity and slight flexibility. In this case, it should be coated properly with an elastic urethane (e.g. Aquaseal or Aquasure) to increase both sliding and mechanical endurance as well as to avoid the cracking of the line coating in the back knot area.



- **STEP 20:** Dilute the urethane with toluene or xylene (these solvents can be found at paint shops). The mixture should be enough liquid to be applied with a brush, but not too much in order to avoid dropping.



- **STEP 21:** Apply the diluted urethane on the back knot (cover cyanocrylate and spread 1 mm beyond its sides), forming a tapered shape.



- **STEP 22:** Follow the same procedure to glue and coat the front knot. After drying, the butt loop is ready.



- **STEP 23: TIP LOOP.** Build a braid loop like the previous one. Now there's no need to reinforce passing the line core through it, as this area won't be subjected to so much mechanical effort during cast. Just make a sharpen cut on the tip to facilitate penetration and thread it up to the start of the loop, making sure that the inside braid doesn't shrink.

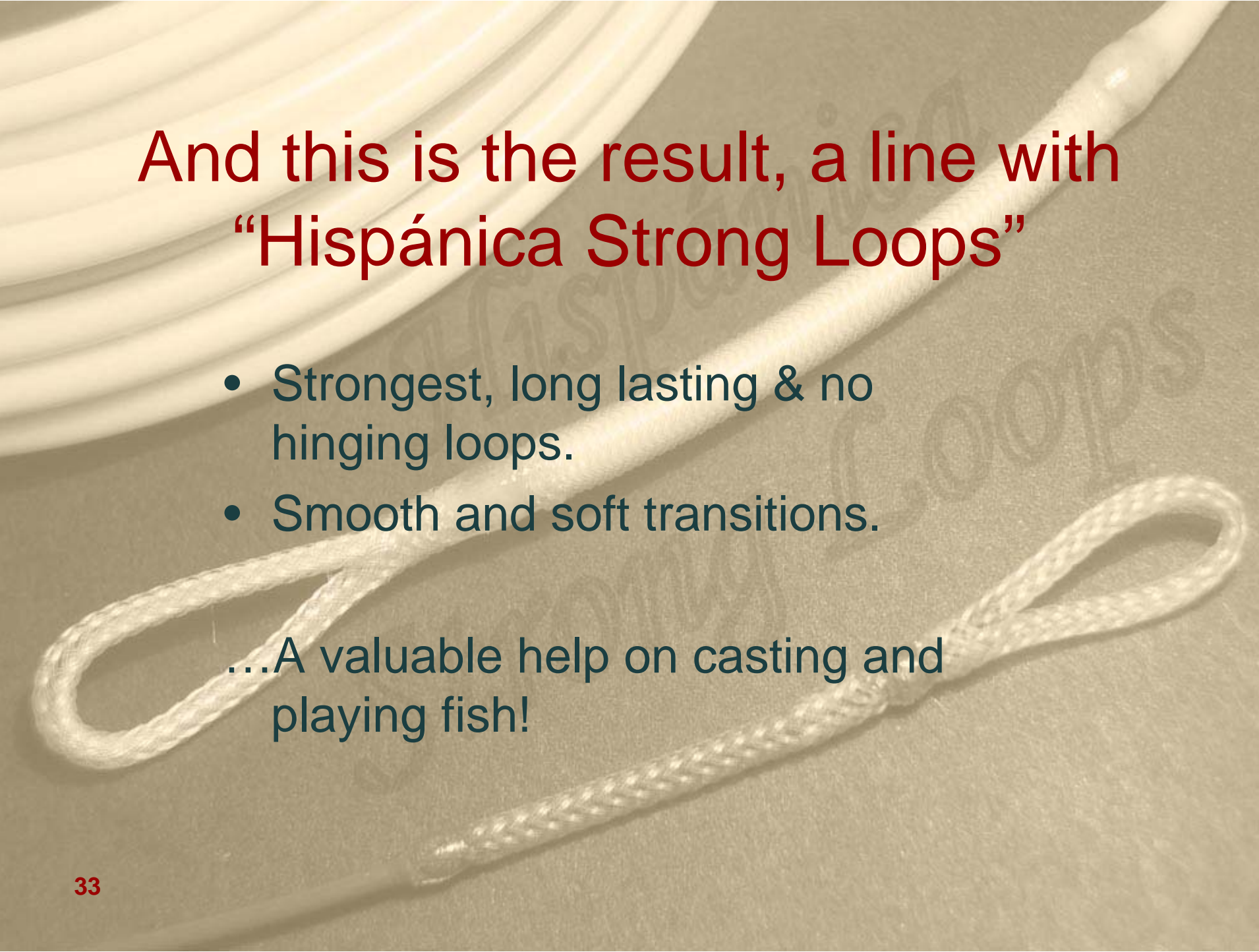


- **STEP 24:** Make both nail knots as before, trimming accurately the loose ends and the spare braid fibers.



- **STEP 25:** As above, glue both knots with Loctite 435 and coat them with a diluted urethane. After drying, the tip loop is ready.





And this is the result, a line with “Hispánica Strong Loops”

- Strongest, long lasting & no hinging loops.
- Smooth and soft transitions.

...A valuable help on casting and playing fish!

