



By Craig Conover

# Fly Fishing Leader and Tippet

# Sizes of Leaders and tippet

## History of X system of tippet 0x-8x

- Gut lines, how many draws of the knife to split the line.
  - 1x= one draw of the knife
  - 5x= five draws of the knife
  - 5x is much thinner than 1x

## Tippet fly size divided by 3

- Size 18 fly /3=6x tippet
- Size 16 fly /3=5x tippet

# Leader Materials Mono vs Fluoro

## Mono

- Floats
- Stretches
- Cheaper \$
- Visibility
- Less Abrasion resistant

## Fluoro

- Sinks
- Less stretch
- More expensive \$\$\$
- Less visible
- Abrasion resistant

# Contact leaders for fresh and salt

- Contact leader 3-4 pieces of line
  - Butt section 40% - transition from fly line to leader
    - Match the stiffness of the fly line
  - Mid section 30% – transition energy, step down to tippet
    - Splits the diameter of the butt and tippet
  - Tippet section 20% – turn over fly
    - Match to the fly size
    - Be able to land the fish
- Bite Tippet
  - 6-10 inches of wire or fluorocarbon
- Line Class Tippet for IGFA records 15” min
  - Mail in leader with record application

# Common Leader and Tippet Challenges

Tippet curly  
queues –

- Issue = too small\thin of tippet
- Fix = tie on thicker\stiffer

Leader does  
not straighten  
on cast

- Issue = too small\thin of tippet
- Fix = tie on thicker\stiffer
- Alt issue = tippet too long for leader
- Fix = shorter tippet or longer butt\mid section

# Specialty Leaders

## Euro Nymphing

- 13-30 foot mono 12 pound
- Multi-color indicator 2-3 feet
- Tippet ring
- 3-6 feet 5x tippet
  - Tags for multi-fly rig

## Sinking Line Leader

- Short under 4 foot
  - Butt section 24" to 36"
  - Tippet 18" to 24"

## Brite Butt leaders - Harry Murray

- Same as contact leader
- Add 12' to 18" Amnesia to butt

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Questions?

