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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Leaders?

Re: Leaders?

Author: : OldLefty

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URL:

I don't normally chime in on gear topics but I thought I would on this one.

I'm of the old school in that, while I build my own leaders, I use the standard formula of 60% butt, 20% mid- and 20% tippet sections, with some slight altering in lengthening the tippet when I see fit.

I tie one leader to fish dries and nymphs and I call it a vari-colored leader since it incorporates brightly colored sections of mono for strike indication.

Vari-colored leader formula as follows:

26" .018" (20 lb.) fluorescent clear blue Stren

22" .016" (17 lb.) fluorescent clear blue Stren

16" .014" (14 lb.) fluorescent gold Stren

12" .013" (12 lb.) fluorescent clear blue Stren

10" .011" (10 lb.) fluorescent gold Stren

8" .009" your choice mono

8" .007" your choice mono

36" your choice mono

For 4X don't change anything except add desired length of .007" for tippet. For lighter tippet, add 8" lengths to step down, by .002" diameter sections, to desired tippet diameter.

I've been using this vari-colored leader since the 1970's. The idea of bringing this material into the leader formula is something I CAN NOT claim. The formula, however, is mine.

I use the %-age formula because it allows me to tie leaders to use for all conditions, an example of which would include a short leader to turn over dries for small streams.

Dave R.