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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : How long of a leader?

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I took the new rod out on Saturday evening and it just felt like the leader was too long. I throw a 8.5' 5wt rod and the place where I got it put on a 11.5-12' tapered leader. It just felt like it was too long. In my false casts there wasn't enough weight to pull line out of my hand when I was trying to expand, and it felt like I was trying to cast a kite. I had to have out at least 30' of line in order for it to feel right.

How long of a leader do you guys use, and how long of a leader would you suggest for a beginner?

I noticed some experienced guys on the stream were using leaders about 8' long.

I like fishing 2-lbs test down to the fly, so I tied on 2-lbs tippet on the end of the long tapered 6-lbs test line.

If I shorten it, do you suggest shortening the thicker end where it connects to the fly line, or just trimming back the 6-lbs end?