

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Thinking of building a few leaders...

Re: Thinking of building a few leaders...

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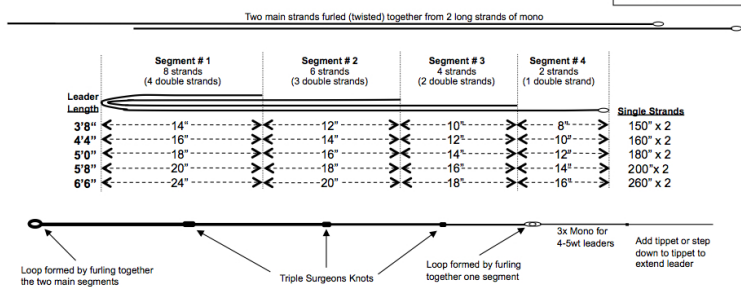
Here are the details on the furled leaders I make:

Attach file:

 **furled leader instructions hr.jpg** (955.91 KB)

Furled Leader Instructions

1-3 wt - 4 lb test mono
 4-5 wt - 6 lb test mono
 6-7wt - 8 lb test mono
 8-9 wt - 10-12 lb test mono



The lengths for each leader are listed above on the far right of the second diagram. Peel off two long segments of mono and match up the tips. Go to the loop end and furl them together by twisting each strand IN THE SAME DIRECTION. Work your way to the end and put an overhand knot in it to hold it together. Do the same for the second segment. You now have two main strands as shown above in the top diagram.

Stagger the two strands to allow for segment # 4 and attach the strands together with a thin strip of masking tape to hold them together (see top diagram). For example if the last segment is 12", overlap leaving 9" at the end to allow room for making for the knot. Furl the 2 strands together IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION of the first furl (this tightens the furl you already have). You now have a single strand furled together.

Measure out the strand to the finished leader length and add 1 1/2" to allow for the knots reducing the overall length, and fold over at this point (see second diagram). Folding over the leader and furling forms the butt-end loop. Furl IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION of the last furl. Measure out segment # 1 and tie a triple surgeons knot at that point. Tip: use an overhand knot and move it up and down until the measurement is correct, and insert tag two more times to make a triple surgeons knot and tighten. Unfurl any excess line forward of the knot. Cut excess but leave the longer single strand and furl together to form segment # 2. Measure for segment # 2 and tie knot at that point as before, and trim excess. Furl the remaining line and measure for segment # 3. Tie the knot and trim excess.

You now have a 4 segment tapered leader that will turn over flies. Add mono with a loop. 10-12' of 2 - 3x mono works well for a 4-5wt leader. Use heavier mono for heavier leaders. You can add your tippet from there or step down with progressively thinner mono to lengthen your leader. The leader butts work well up to 120% of butt length. In other words a 5' furled leader can be used for up to 11' finished leader if stepped down.

I usually coat with Knot Sense or Sally Hansen's the base of both loops and the first TS knot to allow it to more easily slide through the tippet. You can also use nail knots or whip finish with thread instead of using TS knots to bind together each segment.