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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Furled leaders

Re: Furled leaders

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URL:

I've used them pretty much from the start for me. As a newbie they were easier to turn over and I didn't have to worry about building/repairing leaders at all...just add tippet. This is still nice most of the time.

Main advantages that I see:

1. Durability - Have never had one fail. They will easily last an entire season (or more) if not abused.
2. Cost - Most run around \$10-12, but given how long they last, they're usually cost effective over store bought knotless tapered leaders. (Obviously not cost effective over building your own knotted leader though.)
3. Ease of use...everything is loop to loop. Allows much quicker changes of the tippet section.
4. From a functional standpoint, I find them easier to cast and turn over, but that's potentially just personal preference.
5. They do lessen wind knots, although one will still occasionally show up. Because of the multiple individual threads that make up a furled leader they usually don't cinch down on themselves right away, and you can usually get a wind knot out if you notice them quick before any significant tension is put on the line via a snag or hooked fish.

The main disadvantage IMO is (relative) lack of customization potential over building your own leader. Depends on what/how I'm fishing as to whether this matters or not, but I've developed a bit of a hybrid system. I have a couple shorter and less tapered furled leaders in the 4-5' range. I will then add a 12-18" or so section of 2x or 3x to that with a small perfection loop at the end that meets the leader. From there I'll add another 12-18" of 4x or 5x with a standard blood or surgeon's knot and fish off of that. This is how I usually fish dries on little Brookie streams.

With the longer, more tapered furled leaders on bigger streams I still usually just add 18-24" of my desired tippet and start fishing. If I'm streamer fishing for Smallies, I'll just add a piece of 10lb mono and won't have to mess with it all day.