
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : My Problem of Hooking Trout

Re: My Problem of Hooking Trout

Author: : Heritage-Angler

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URL:

Good Lord. This tippet size stuff is getting out of control!

Fish can see 6X.

Fish can see 7X.

Fish can see 8X.

Fish can see 9X.

Guess what - it doesn't matter! What DOES matter is drag - more specifically, micro drag. The kind you can't see easily, but it makes the fly drift in an unnatural manner. Fish can see this too, and THIS can and will affect their behavior.

The ONLY advantage to using tippet smaller than 6X is that it can be more supple than thicker tippet. This helps combat micro drag. Notice I said it CAN BE more supple.

The material your tippet is made of makes a bigger difference than the size of the tippet (to a point). Some brands of tippet are more supple than others. Using a more supple brand/material of tippet helps you combat micro drag.

Another method to combat micro drag is to use a longer length of tippet, rather than going to lighter tippet. This is a lot easier than trying to find the most supple tippet material.

Telling newbies to use 7X or lighter tippets is not a good idea, IMO. If they are having a hard time controlling drag, what makes you think they have the fish fighting skills to combat a fish on lighter tippet? Sounds to me like a good way to overstress fish by prolonging the fight.

As for the "experienced" guys using 9X tippet on Valley - they're not as experienced as you'd think. 😊

The only (common) tippet manufacturer that makes 9X tippet is Varivas. Varivas' Super Midge tippet is their best, and strongest tippet in this size. Compare the size of the 9X to Rio Powerflex 8X....

Rio Powerflex Tippet:

5X = 0.152mm = 5 lb test

6X = 0.127mm = 3.4 lb test

7X = 0.102mm = 2.4 lb test

8X = 0.076mm = 1.5 lb test

Varivas Super Midge Tippet:

8X = 0.096mm = 2.05 lb test
9X = 0.086mm = 1.66 lb test