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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Leaders, whos making them vs just buying tapered?

Re: Leaders, whos making them vs just buying tapered?

Author: : Heritage-Angler

Date: : 2012/8/28 15:25:20

URL:

Quote:

bigslackwater wrote:

I've been looking up leader formulas and I have to wonder if tying them with 8 or 9 sections is overkill?

You wouldn't be the first to wonder about this.

In Gary Borger's book "Presentation", he talks about a simple leader formula he came up with to immitate the performance of George Harvey's slack line leader. He calls it the "Uni-Body" leader. It has a butt section of 4' of .020 Maxima Chameleon, and a mid section of 1' of .013 Maxima Chameleon.

While it doesn't perform exactly like Harvey's formulas, it does a pretty good job. It's easy to adapt it to a lot of fishing situations, and IMO, this makes it superior to knotless leaders. With only a few sections, you know exactly what diameters you're dealing with, and where to make the modifications. The materials used, and the knots used to connect them are important to this design.

Gary uses a 5/7 turn blood knot, to allow the knot to hold with the drastic jump in material sizes - 5 turns of the heavier material, and 7 turns of the lighter material. Once you get down to tippet size material, a double or triple surgeons knot works well, without resulting in a large size knot.

Here's some versions of the Uni-Body leader that have worked well for me:

Nymphing leader-

4' of .020 Maxima Chameleon blood knotted to

1' of .013 Maxima Chameleon blood knotted to

4' of 2X triple surgeons knotted to

1' of 4X

To modify this for fishing dry flies, just add 2' of 5X or 6X.

For fishing streamers, just cut back to the 2X.

You can fish this leader for a long time before you have to replace the 2X, and even longer before the .013

needs to be replaced. It's a simple design, and only requires 2 spools of non-tippet material.

Simple, cheap, and versatile. YMMV...