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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: : [barbless](#)

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URL:

I've been doing a little experimenting with pre-tied leaders and one of those Fishpond leader gauges (truly a gadget worth having, by the way.

Whenever I fish limestone spring creeks like the LeTort, I always notice my leader knots collecting little bits of vegetation and adding drag. So I've taken to using pre-tied leaders attached to a length of .017 leader butt- that way the only knot is at that connection (smoothed out with Pliobond), plus a knot for adding more tippet if necessary.

I never paid much attention to which brand of pre-tied I was picking up, and I've had varying degrees of success with the casting quality.

I think I just figured out why.

The other night, I measured three different brands of 9' 3X leader that I happened to have on hand- Cortland Precision, Orvis Superstrong, and Rio Powerflex.

Only the Rio Powerflex came close to being an acceptable design.

45" of the Cortland leader measured .017 or less. The drop from .017 to .011 was less than 8". 28 inches was 3X tippet.

48" of the Orvis leader measured .017 or less. I only have the leader butt left, I threw the rest away. But the drop from .017 to .011 was also less than one foot.

68" of the Rio leader measured .017 or less. The section between .017 and .011 measured 26". The 3X tippet portion was 16".

All three leaders had butt sections that started with least .021 diameter mono, which is too large to connect to a line weight smaller than 7, as far as I'm concerned.