Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Tippet Preferences
Re: Tippet Preferences
Author: : Padraic
Date: : 2007/1/31 7:18:14
URL:

Quote:

> Flydog wrote:
> JackM that was a great leader link!
> Assuming that you are building a leader where the formula requires the last section be a 5x....now when you are fishing does it matter if you add a 5x tippet the end of your leader or does the tippet you are adding have to be a different size(smaller) than the last section of the leader? Or does it matter?

I meant to say earlier that I use those same leader formulae. They work well. You may also want to check out the George Harvey leader formulae, I think they appear in several books but I found them in On the Trout Stream by Humphreys. If you get the leader building kit from Fly Fishers Paradise, they include them (and the mono is Maxima Chameleon and Orvis SS).

To answer the question above... Yes, you can attach 5x to 5x. Essentially what you are doing is making the leader longer than the formula calls for. The effect is that it will not turn over as well. This can be a problem or an advantage depending on whether you are doing it intentionally.

I frequently add more 5x to a leader, rather than going down to 6x. Why? I have a firm conviction that trout can see any tippet modern science can extrude. You could have 10x on and they'd see it. The point to going to a lighter tippet is that it is more limp. The more limp a tippet is, the more poorly it turns over. This puts slack down by the fly, and this eliminates drag. So it's the drag you need to eliminate. The lighter tippet just makes the fisherman feel better. Meanwhile, you lose more flies to trout and trees.

You can eliminate the drag by adding a couple feet of a heavier tippet. The greater length will be harder to turn over and you'll get that slack down by the fly. The advantage of the heavier tippet is that you'll have fewer break offs (trout and trees).

In situations where you want to turnover the fly (nymph and streamer fishing, terrestrials, etc) the slack will be an issue not an advantage. So you may want to carry a couple sizes of leaders. In fact, you may want to carry leaders that are specific to dry fly or nymph fishing.

Oh, one big problem with knotted leaders. If you get windknots in your leaders, you'll hate 'em. When a knotted leader gets snarled, there is almost no way to untangle it. Another reason to carry spares.