

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Tippet Preferences

Re: Tippet Preferences

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URL:

Flydog, by gosh I think you've got it! Even with extruded leaders, they are meant to be fished out of the box, without addition of tippet. With extruded leaders, you only need to add tippet when the tippet section gets shortened from tying on several flies and breaking or cutting back.

My experience with building and rebuilding leaders is that tippet length is not an exact science. The leader taper transfers energy to the butt end of the tippet section and then that energy, while being transferred still further, tends to begin to dissipate. The pre-defined formulas provide the "ideal" (in the opinion of the maker) length of tippet for an appropriate "unfolding," but 6 inches (or more) either way isn't going to be particularly noticeable, in my opinion. If the tippet is on the long side, as Padraic suggested, you are likely to get an incomplete turn over on the final part of the leader. If the section is on the short side, the leader will straighten all the way to the end and may even "spring back" slightly, leaving the fly behind the last section of tippet.

I like tied leaders because you know exactly when you have too little tippet left, not always easy to know with extruded leaders on the first use.