Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Tippet Preferences
Re: Tippet Preferences
Author: : afishinado
Date: : 2007/2/1 9:23:07
URL:

I tie up my own knotted leaders but generally use them for special situations. One extreme would be George Harvey formula for tough situations where you need slack in the leader, and the other extreme would be a short steep tapered leader for streamers. 90% of the time I use knotless leaders and taper the last third of the leader as needed – short taper for wind resistant flies or streamers and longer taper, longer tippet small diameter for small flies.

I use only a couple leaders all season. As they become shorter from trimming, I add sections of tippet material to adjust. The leader formulas are a guide, but I experiment to see how much tippet and taper I need to turn over you fly, or dump slack into the line. As long as you stick close to the general rules: No more than 2/1000's diameter differences between sections, and 20% butt – 60% taper – 20% tippet you should be okay.

Some use a micrometer to measure diameter, but I don't feel that you have to be that exact. I usually use the same leader for wooly buggers cut back to 71/2' maybe 3x, or I can build it out the same leader to a 14' 6x for midges. If you prefer, you can carry different leader tapers for different situations. The most important thing is to cast and fish it, and adjust until it works. The next time out you will have a good idea of what leader taper will work best in each situation.