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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Tippet Preferences

Re: Tippet Preferences

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URL:

I like what Afishinado had to say. I basically do the same thing.

I used to tie all my leaders from the get-go, but more and more, I'm inclined towards things that simplify rather than mystify or complicate. So now, I buy Bass Pro Shop knotless leaders because they are cheap and have good stiff butt material. Usually, I'll buy 7 1/2' 3X and 9' 4X in the packages, cut off roughly 3/4 of the tippet section and tie in my own. Then I replace sections PRN until I have to start replacing at or above 0X (like .013 or thicker) I use whatever I have handy for these middle sections, often Cabelas-branded Climax or sometimes Stren. Then, I'm partial to Orvis SS and the regular Rio for tippet. Frog Hair is interesting stuff, but I don't think it holds a knot particularly well (I use a uni-knot at the fly). But that could be me. I may not be holding my mouth right when I tie my knots....:)

I don't own any fluorocarbon that wasn't a gift from somebody else and generally I don't think that much of it, at least not in a value sense.

Leader formulas are very situational and while the Harvey leaders work well, I've never made a point of adhering to any given formula other than the basic 20/60/20.

But it can pay, IMO, to be creative with leaders and occasionally break some of the so-called "rules". For example, when I was fishing a lot of really tight quarters places in PA or the southern Appalachians, I usually fished a fairly short leader (say 7' max.) that had a longer butt and then went directly from 0X to a 4X tippet. Usually, IMO, Afishinado is right and you don't want to exceed a 2 mil transition in your sections. But this leader was excellent for punching a short line and turned over pretty well even if it violated every rule of leader design.

Sometimes, the only thing the rules are good for is breaking...