

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Fishing small wild trout runs

Re: Fishing small wild trout runs

Author: : barbless

Date: : 2013/6/12 17:31:18

URL:

Quote:

Using a properly constructed 5 or 6 foot leader is a HUGE advantage over using 9 foot leaders designed for bigger places.

Absolutely. Something I figured out the hard way.

For small streams, you want a leader length that always stays outside of the tip-top with some line to spare, and has a stiff enough butt section and a steep enough taper to turn over a bushy fly like a #12 Stimulator on a roll cast. That almost always means less than 7'.

For a slack line presentation to work on most small stream targets, the slack should all be in the tippet section. As for the rest of the leader and line, the more that stays off of the water, the better.

The idea is that you want the tippet section to collapse in a heap, while everything above the tippet keeps a relatively straight connection to the rod tip. Otherwise, everything tends to get more and more out of control.

You probably already know what happens when your excess line and leader get tugged into a fast current while your fly is floating on the water. It defeats the entire enterprise. Especially when dealing with some of the waterfalls. You know, the ones with the dead branches wedged in them.

In the streams where I fish, the brookies are definitely drag-shy, or at least totally unimpressed by it. And around half the time, a 2' drag-free drift is about the best anyone can hope for. So it's all about pile casting the tippet, while keeping enough line control to take up that tippet slack and hook the fish when it hits.

The main exception to the rule is summer conditions, when the water is low and clear and you're using small flies like #18 beetles. Then, you may benefit from a longer leader. Put it all in the tippet section. Low clear water means that the current is much slower, which means that the upper 2/3 of your leader won't get jerked around as much. But any leader diameter heavier than 4X will slam down like a rope on the low clear water of a flat pool. a couple of extra feet of 6X is more like it.