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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : tippet and leader suggestions

Re: tippet and leader suggestions

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

yuengling,

It is useful to think of leader and tippet as separate entities. You have a leader, and the last few feet is tippet.

Now, when you buy a tapered, pre-made leader in a fly shop, it already has tippet on it. So, for instance, if you buy a 9 ft, 5x tapered leader, you have bought the leader AND the attached tippet. If you are using 5x tippet to start, tie on the fly and fish!

However, each time you change a fly, you shorten that tippet by a few inches. You haven't touched the leader, only the tippet. So after you lose enough that the tippet is too short to give you a good presentation, your leader is still fine. Just tie more tippet on!

Likewise, if you want to use, say, 4x tippet instead of 5x. You can't just tie it on the end. Else you'd have thinner line tapering to thicker line! Cut back at least to where the line is thicker than 4x tippet, then re-add a length of 4x tippet.

Likewise, if you want to use 6x tippet, if you just add it to the end, then you have a REALLY long tippet on there. Cut back some, then add 6x.

A leader, really, should last a whole season. But in that time I go through several entire spools of tippet.