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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Saving Leader

Re: Saving Leader

Author: : afishinado

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URL:

*What's a tippet?....why do I need one?....and how do I tie on a tippet?.....*

A leader is tapered fishing line where the heaviest end attaches to your fly line (usually with a loop). The leader tapers down to the thin section (the tippet end) which attaches to your fly.

The tippet is a short piece of mono fishing line tied on the end of your leader. When you change flies you cut the tippet rather than cutting and shortening your leader with every fly change.

The easiest way to add a tippet is to cut down your new leader by 18" or so, or buy a leader a little shorter, like a 7.5' leader to end up with a 9' leader. Tie a 18-24" section of line (tippet) on the end of your leader using a [surgeon's knot](#).

The tippet section should be the same strength line as a the leader or a little lighter. For example: Use a 4x tippet on a 4x leader or 5x tippet on the end of a 4x leader. When the tippet becomes short after tying on a few flies, replace it with a new tippet as explained above.

*The mystery of the "X"!* 🤔

Tippets are based on the line diameter of .011 (11 thousandths of an inch). Included are approximate lb test ratings depending on the brand of line used.

.011 = 0x (11 - 11 = 0x) 15lb test  
.010 = 1x (11 - 10 = 1x) 13lb test  
.009 = 2x (11 - 9 = 2x) 11lb test  
.008 = 3x (11 - 8 = 3x) 8.0lb test  
.007 = 4x (11 - 7 = 4x) 6.0lb test  
.006 = 5x (11 - 6 = 5x) 4.5lb test  
.005 = 6x (11 - 5 = 6x) 3.0lb test  
.004 = 7x (11 - 4 = 7x) 2.5lb test  
.003 = 8x (11 - 3 = 8x) 1.5lb test

You subtract 11 from the diameter of the tippet to get the "X" number.

*If I need a heavier tippet for streamers or buggers, what do I do?*

As stated above, never tie on a tippet that's heavier than the leader. So if you have 4x leader you can tie on a

~~4x or 5x tippet and not a heavier 3x tippet, which is usually used for streamers or buggers when fishing for trout.~~

You can buy a 3x leader and use that for steamers and heavy flies or cut back your lighter leader a few feet to the heavier section. Most leaders have a loop-to-loop connection to the fly line and are easy to change out - no knots to tie.

You can use tippet rings instead of surgeons knots, but I beginning anglers to keep it simple by using less hardware.