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Subject: : [Beginner Forum](#)

Topic: : [Is making your own leaders worth the trouble?](#)

Re: [Is making your own leaders worth the trouble?](#)

Author: : [pcray1231](#)

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URL:

Yep, it'll say on the spool. Per HE's comment, there is SOME correlation, lol. A pretty good one, actually. But it's correlation, not direct conversion. Given the same diameters, different brands will vary in lb test.

For instance:

Rio Powerflex 2x - diameter 0.230 mm. Test rating = 10 lb

Orvis SuperStrong 2x - diameter 0.230 mm. Test rating 11.5 lb

Maxima Clear 2x - diameter 0.230 mm. Test rating 6 lb

To show the correlation thing, on any of the above, if you go down in diameter, well, the test rating gets lower, and if you go up in diameter the test rating goes up too. Pretty predictable and obvious.

But, you should also keep in mind, that neither the advertised diameter nor lb test are 100% reproducible. If you measure the above, you'll very often get a different diameter than .230, and a different breaking strength too.

An example in the spin fishing world is Berkely Trilene. At a given lb test, the advertised diameter looks pretty dang good in comparison with other brands. Weird for a "supposedly" cheap line. But they vastly understate their diameter, moreso than other brands. When you actually measure it, it's much thicker than stated. So it's not really thinner than those other brands, often, it's actually thicker. But they count on us not measuring it, and instead trusting the label.

Tippet manufacturers do the same to a lesser degree.

But diameters, not strength, is what we typically go by. The diameter/stiffness is what we judge, not the breaking strength. Cause it's about how it casts a fly.

In some cases if you're chasing really big fish, like steelhead, then breaking strength can become more important, but even then, usually only on the tippet material, not on the leader material.