

Leaders

Purposes Of A Leader



- Separates Fly From Fly Line
 - Invisible Connection to Fly
 - Flyline Splashes as it Lands
- Transfers Energy of the fly line to the fly
- Allows Fly to Move more naturally
 - Smaller Tippet = Fly Motion
 - Drift Freely in Currents
- Strong Enough to Land Fish

Leader Transfers Energy of the fly line to The Fly

Good Turnover

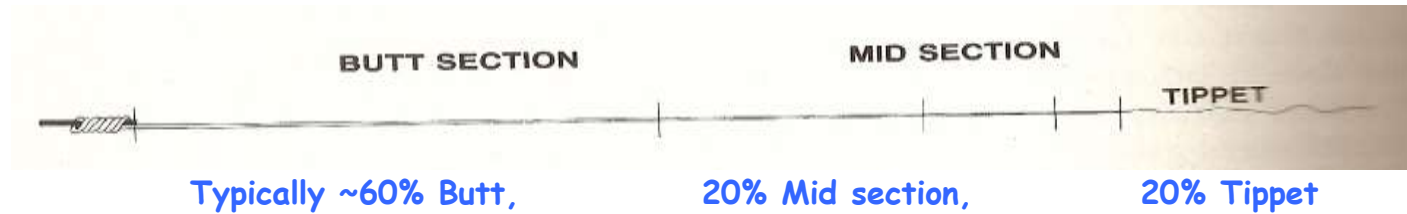
Momentum Consistently Straightens Leader and Fly



Poor Turnover

Momentum Doesn't Transfer to Fly

Leader Parts



Practical Fishing Knots, by
Lefty Kreh and Mark Sosin

- **Butt**
 - Largest diameter part
 - Directly Transfers Momentum From Flyline
- **Mid Section**
 - Steps Down in Diameter To Tippet
 - Smoothly transfers Momentum from Fly Line
- **Tippet**
 - Smallest diameter
 - Defines Ability for Fly to Move

Leader Types

Tapered, Hand Tied, or Furled Leaders

- **Tapered** Most Straightforward
 - Factory Made Single Piece Drawn to Ideal Taper
 - Most Fly Fishers Use These
 - Can Modify to Most Situations
 - Best Leader in Weedy Water
- **Hand Tied** for Custom Performance
 - Infinitely Flexible - Can Optimize to Fishing Situation
 - Easy to Do Yourself - Can Save Money
- **Furled/Braided** for Turnover
 - Single purpose/ Not easily customized
 - Great for streamers, big flies, & saltwater
 - Very durable

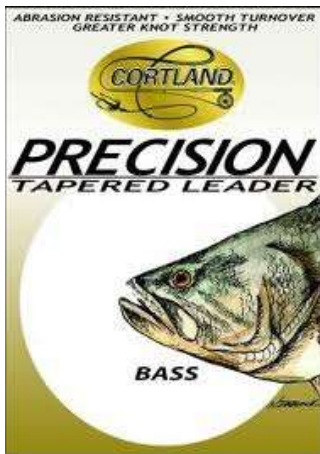
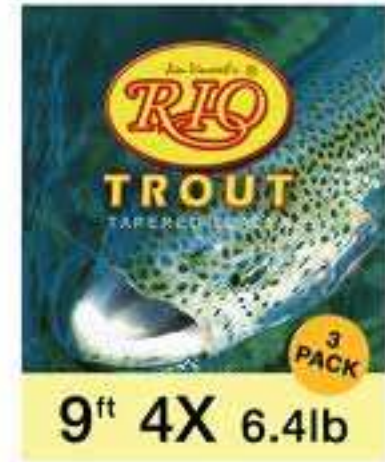
Keep It Simple
Recommendation



Buy Packaged Tapered Leaders

- What You Need:
 - Trout 7.5-9 ft 4x
 - Bass 7.5-9 ft 10 lb

Keep It Simple
Recommendation



Leaders Are Not Slinky's

- Removing from Package
 - Unwrap Butt First
- Straighten By Pulling and Holding Tight for a few seconds
 - Leader straightener not recommended



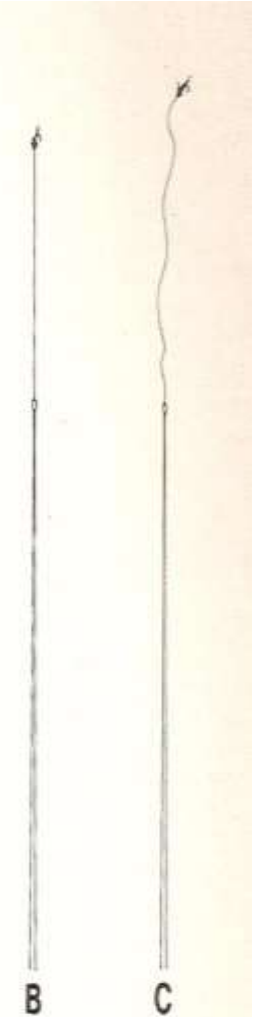
Engineered to Land Straight or with Slack?

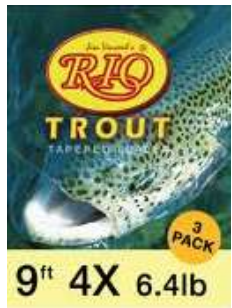
- **Straight**

- Desired in Most Fishing
- Can Impart Motion to Fly
- Can Set Hook Quickly

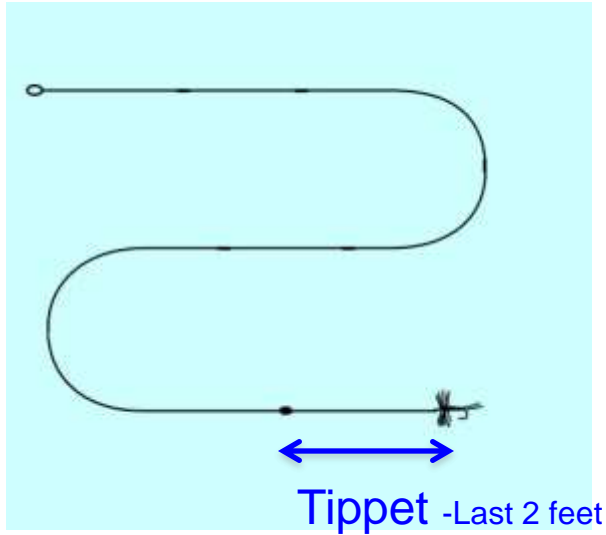
- **Engineered Slack**

- Trout Dry Fly & Nymph Fishing
- Allows Fly to Move Independently
- Drift with the Currents
- Sinking Quickly (nymph) / Free Motion (dry fly)





Leaders Are Modified While Fishing



- After ~5 Flies
 - Tippet's Is Consumed
 - Tie On Another 2 '
- Add Longer Tippet
 - For Freer Fly Movement
- Add Longer Smaller Tippet
 - For Freer Small Fly Movement
- For Bigger Flies
 - Cut Back To Heavier Area In Taper
 - Add 2 foot Heavier Tippet

Matching Tippet to Fly

- **Tippets Use X Rating**
 - from Silk Worm Gut History
 - X is number of times through cutting die
- **X Rating Defines Diameter**
 - 11-X number (in thousandths of inch)
- **X Tradeoff**
 - Smaller = Freer Motion
 - Larger Better Turnover
- **Golden Rule**
 - Fly Size = 1/3 Tippet
 - Size 12 Fly = 4X Tippet
- **Avoid Big Diameter Changes**
 - Keep in <2 X Steps

Monofilament Tippet Sizes			
X-Rating	Mono Strength	Diameter	Approx Fly Size
	(lbs)	(inches)	
7X	1.9	.004"	#20-#28
6X	2.8	.005"	#18-#26
5X	3.9	.006"	#14-#20
4X	5.2	.007"	#6-#14
3X	6.6	.008"	#6-#12
2X	8.3	.009"	#4-#10
1X	10	.010"	#4-#8
0X	12	.011"	#4-#6
	14	.013"	#8-#12
	17	.015"	#4-#8
	19	.017"	#1/0-#4
	22	.019"	#3/0-#1/0
	25	.021"	#5/0-#3/0

Diagram illustrating the relationship between tippet size and fish species:

- Basic Trout:** 4X to 12X
- Panfish:** 4X to 6X
- Bass:** 4X to 12X
- Steelhead:** 6X to 12X
- Salmon:** 6X to 12X



Nylon

- Most Common
- Softer/Pliable
- Floats
- Breaks down in UV
 - Keep out of sun and heat
 - If breaks easy, replace
- Recommended for all around fishing



Flourocarbon

- Near Invisible in water
- Stronger & Resists Abrasion \$
- Sinks
- Helpful for trout nymphing, clear water, saltwater & big fish
- Never Breaks Down in Sunlight



Keep It Simple
Recommendation



Don't Make Leader Too Strong

15-20 lb Max

- Tippet = Weakest Link
 - Fly Line ~30-50lb test
 - Arbor Knot Breaks ~10-20 lbs!
- Stuck in Trees or on Bottom
- Moby Dick Heading for China
 - Before Reach Arbor Knot
 - Point Rod @ Fish and Lock Down Reel

