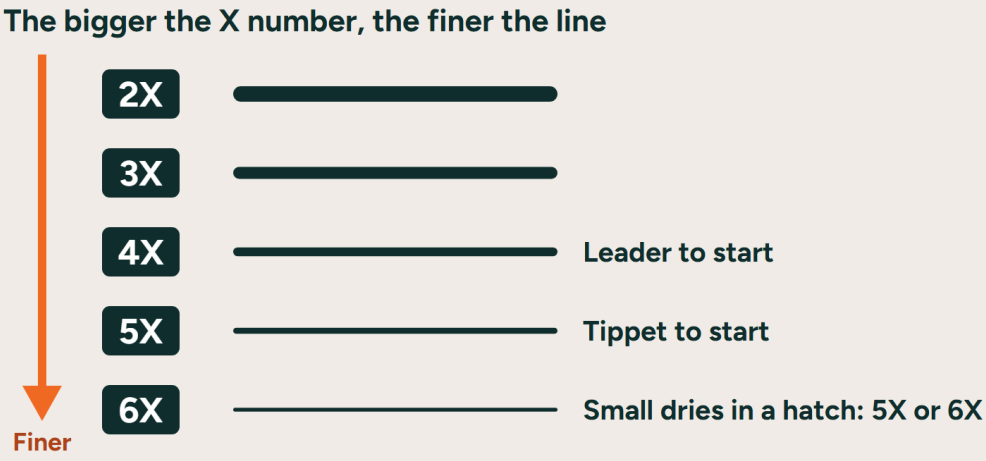
LEADER AND TIPPET

A leader is the tapered line between your fly line and your fly: thick where it loops to the fly line, thin at the far end. Tippet is fine line, sold on spools, that you tie to the leader's thin end; the fly goes on the tippet. To start, use a 7½ to 9 ft 4X leader and 5X tippet, one size finer.



Fly Findr has no sourced table of diameters or strengths, so none is shown.

WHAT TO TIE ON

RIG	LEADER	TIPPET
Dry fly	7½ to 9 ft, 4X	5X; tie the dry to it
Dry dropper	7½ to 9 ft, 4X	Dry on 5X; 12 to 36 in. of 5X from the dry's hook bend to a small nymph
Indicator nymph	7½ to 9 ft, 4X; indicator on the leader	5X; split shot 6 to 12 in. above the nymph
Small dries in a hatch	A long leader (PMD guide)	5X or 6X (BWO and PMD guides)

RE-EXTEND THE TIPPET

1	**Nip off the fly**	When a few fly changes have left the tippet short.
2	**Tie on fresh tippet**	A new length of the same size, joined to what is left with a surgeon's knot.
3	**Tie the fly back on**	With an improved clinch knot.

Starting points, not tested best choices. No controlled field study in Fly Findr's research tested tippet diameter or material (fluorocarbon or nylon) against trout catch rate, and no study was found that tested tippet strength against whether released trout survive.