

Welded Loops

When it comes to attaching leader to fly line, tippet to leader I'm a loop to loop kind of guy. You just might say I'm a bit loopy. Apparently I'm not the only one as more and more fly lines are manufactured with a pre-built loop. I have found that the pre-built loops float better, I suspect they do not absorb the water like a fly line that has been cut at the head. If you have a fly line that did not come with a pre-built loop then follow these simple steps to place such a loop on your line.

- Slice end of line at an angle
- Fold line back over itself roughly 1.5 to 2 inches
 - sometimes it is easier to insert line through shrink tube then fold over and pull loop back into shrink tube
 - length of fold over can be adjusted based on needs/desires
- Insert line into a 4 inch long clear piece of 3/16" diameter shrink tube
 - Smaller/Larger shrink tube may be needed based on thickness of fly line
 - You want to protect the line NOT being welded so you will have shrink tube that expands beyond both points
- Lightly shrink the tubing where the weld will be to secure the line as you desire
 - Use a heat gun such as those built for scraping paint
 - A reducing nozzle works great
 - A heat gun that can sit up right works best
- Starting at the loop end begin heating the line until it just begins to melt
- Start moving to the reel end of the line
 - Don't move to fast (you won't get line melted)
 - Don't move to slow (you will just burn line)
 - Make sure line is melting completely as you go
 - Slightly rotate the line as you progress
- Carefully cut/remove shrink tubing
- Go fish!

Note: Occasionally I have had my weld begin to break loose but this is only after a fair amount of abuse. I simply place a couple of wraps of floss over the weld and seal with some Loon UV Knot Sense or similar product.

Dean Rapp