

# Leaders by C. Dean Rapp

Maxima Chameleon		
Test	Diameter	X
6 lb	.009	2X
8 lb	.010	1X
10 lb	.012	
12 lb	.013	
15 lb	.015	
20 lb	.017	
25 lb	.020	
30 lb	.022	
40 lb	.024	

## Uni-Body Leader

### But/Taper Section

The standard Uni-Body starts with a 4 foot section of .020 inch diameter line (25 lb Maxima Chameleon) tied to a 1 foot section of .013 inch diameter line (12 lb Maxima Chameleon) and is well suited for 4-6 weight rods. The following charts should be all the information you need to experiment to your hearts content.

### Notes of Interest

- The above breaks the traditional thought process that when connecting lines they should be no more than .002-.003 difference in diameter to ensure a strong knot/connection. The strength of the knot is of little concern given the tippet will be the weak link.
- Use a stiff material for the but section to promote better turnover of the leader.
- The stiff characteristics of Maxima Chameleon (MC) make it a perfect candidate for the butt section. Although Maxima Clear can be used it is not as tough. Ultra Green is too limp for this section of the leader.
- Fly line connection. Personally, I like welded loop fly lines and perfection loop knots on my leaders for a loop to loop connection.
- Attach a 3mm tippet ring to the end opposite the fly line for use in connecting the tippet section. A loop to loop connection may also be used.
- When using a strike indicator you will place it on the taper section just above the Tippet.
- If using a Sighter it will replace your taper

Uni-Body Formulas			
Suggest Ranges			Dean's Suggestions
Rod	4 ft But	1 ft Taper	
3 wt	.017-.020	.010 - .013	3 wt rods 4' of 20 lb & 1' of 12 lb
4 wt	.019-.021	.012 - .014	4-5 wt rods 4' of 25 lb & 1' of 12 lb
5 wt	.020-.022	.013 - .015	
6 wt	.021-.023	.014 - .016	5-6 wt rods 4' 30 lb & 1' of 15 lb
7 wt	.022-.024	.015 - .017	
8 wt	.023-.026	.016 - .019	7 wt plus 4' 40 lb & 1' of 20 lb
9 wt	.024-.027	.017 - .020	

Sunset ?Amnesia?	
Test	Diameter
15 lb	.015
20 lb	.018 -.019
25 lb	.021
30 lb	.023-.024
40 lb	.027

Maxima Ultra Green		
Test	Diameter	X
1 lb	.003	7X
2 lb	.005	6X
3 lb	.006	5X
4 lb	.007	4X
5 lb	.008	3X
6 lb	.009	2X
8 lb	.010	1X
10 lb	.012	
12 lb	.013	
15 lb	.015	
20 lb	.017	
25 lb	.020	
30 lb	.022	

### Tippet

The size and weight of the flies you are using will dictate the appropriate diameter line to use for the various sections of the tippet.

### Nymph fishing

You will attach a four foot or longer section to the taper section of the leader, followed by a tippet ring and a foot long section of tippet.

Fly Size	4ft+ Tippet But	1ft +/- Tippet
2-8	0X or 10lb UG	0X - 3X
10-14	1X or 8lb UG	3X - 5X
16 & Smaller	2X or 5lb UG	6X and Smaller

### Notes of Interest

- As a general rule divide your hook size by three to determine your tippet size. For example a size 12 hook would use a 4x tippet.
- The tippet, especially the but section, needs to be large/heavy enough to turn the fly over. If the flies are not turning over for you then increase the diameter used or shorten this section.
- A tippet ring attached to the 'Tippet But' can make replacing the tippet section and flies convenient.
- A piece of split shot just above the tippet ring (on the tippet but) works best.
- A weighted nymph may require a heavier tippet.

### Fishing the Film (George Harvey Style)

Lengthen the tippet section from 1 foot to 3-4 feet. This will create a leader that falls in an "S" curve and will dramatically reduce or eliminate drag. This will make a leader between 11.5 - 12.5 feet long.

Standard Uni-Body Leaders					
Large, hook size, 8 Plus, Leeches, wet flies, mice and minnow imitations (Fig 7)	4' .024 40lb MC	1' .017 20lb MC	1' .012 10lb UG	1-2 ft **.009 - .011 6lb-10lb UG	*1 ft .007 4lb UG
Basic Uni-Body (Fig 8)	4 ft .020 25lb MC	1 ft .013 12lb MC			
Dead-drift artificials along the bottom or work flies along the bottom of stillwaters (Fig 6 & Fig 9)	4 ft .020 25lb MC	1 ft .013 40lb MC	4 ft .009-.010 6lb-8lb UG	8 in .007 4lb UG	*6 in .005 2lb UG
Dead-drift artificials at the film (Fig 12)	4 ft .020 25lb MC	1 ft .013 12lb MC	4 ft .010 8lb UG	4 ft .007 4lb UG	*1 ft .005 2lb UG
Dead-drift artificials at the film (A shorter and more manageable version of the above) (Fig 13)	4 ft .020 25lb MC	1 ft .013 12lb MC	1 ft .010 8lb UG	2 ft .007 4lb UG	2 ft .004-.005 1lb-2lb UG
Leeches, Large Wet flies, mice and minnow imitations (Fig 14)	4 ft .020 25lb MC	1 ft .013 12lb MC	2 ft .010 8lb UG	*1 ft .008 5lb UG	
* Optional, typically used for those picky fish. When you need the smallest possible tippet to fool them in taking the bate.					
** Let the fly size dictate the diameter to use					

Dry Fly Leaders					
Dry Fly Size 10-14 (Fig 2)	1 ft .017 20lb MC	4 ft .013 12lb MC	1 ft .010 8lb UG	4 ft .007 4lb UG	
Dry Fly Size 20 or smaller (Fig 3)	1 ft .017 20lb MC	1 ft .013 12lb MC	4 ft .010 8lb UG	4 ft .007 4lb UG	1 ft .005 2lb UG
Dry Fly Stealth Mode Size 16 (Fig 4)	5 ft .017 20lb MC	5 ft .013 12lb MC	1 ft .010 8lb UG	3 ft .007 4lb UG	1 ft .005 2lb UG
Dry Fly Windy Conditions (Fig 5)	10 ft .017 20lb MC	1 ft .012 10lb MC	3 ft .009 8lb UG	1 ft .005 2lb UG	

3 by 3 Style Leaders			
Surface Fishing Large Flies like poppers for small mouth	3 ft. .020 25lb MC	3ft. .015 15lb MC	3-4ft .012 10lbUG

## Knots

### Blood Knots

Make the perfect number of turns....

.016 and larger diameter - 3-4 turns

.010 - .016 diameter 4-5 turns

.010 and smaller diameter 6 or more turns

The above is a compilation of my own personal experience and information garnered from the Web sites and material listed below:

<http://fishfliesandwater.com/gear-rigging/some-leaders-for-trout/>

<http://www.garyborger.com/nymphing-leader/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dNu4KDby9I>

<http://mattsbucket.blogspot.com/2011/10/tying-double-davy-knot.html>

Smallmouth Fly Fishing by Tim Holschlag