

### **Superglue leader connection alternative:**

I use long leaders for almost all of the fishing I do, particularly on a stream having a seamless and knotless joint between fly line and leader is a huge advantage. Such joints allow easy deployment of long leaders when you start casting and equally and possibly more importantly prevent line jams and snapped tippets when landing fish.

My standard means of connection for years now has been a superglue leader splice, detailed in the video clip <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjSxn0O9qAk>

It is also featured as one of a good number of tricks in my book 101 Tips, Tricks and Techniques e book available for download from Smashwords on the link <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/32414>

However, as will all things, there are advantages and disadvantages to this connection, it remains in my opinion one of the best for long leaders on light gear but of late I have been forced to revise the idea a little based on two primary problems.

Some fly lines which I now own, notably Sage lines, have a core that will not expand sufficiently to allow a needle to be pushed up into them, the same obviously applies to monocoil lines where the method cannot be used.

Also the glued in leader, although I have never had one fail, would cause a serious upset were it to need replacing for some reason on the stream. A failure of the connection, a really bad tangle or perhaps damage from rocks or similar. Out there on the water replacing a glued in leader would be problematic at best and for most of us impossible.

I have now, after a bit of experimentation come up with a solution, perhaps not quite as smooth as the superglue splice but more than functional and it allows a couple of advantages over the glued in version not least that it is simpler to achieve.

With this method you can carry and easily change a spare leader in your pocket, requiring no tools other than what you would normally carry on a stream. Secondly you can now add a leader to lines where the core for one reason or another won't allow the use of the splice, Sage and mono-core lines amongst them as mentioned previously.

The trick is to add a short braid section to the mono tapered leader in such a manner that it can be threaded over the tip of the fly line and secured in place easily without need of needles and similar. This is done in much the same manner as those braided leaders which we all used to like and most of us don't any more due to the spray of water from the leader on casting. An important note however, those leaders used to be connected using a short piece of silicone or similar tubing and that isn't a great idea, the tubing catches every time it is pulled into the rod guides and can, (and has for me), be knocked off in the midst of landing a good fish. Very disappointing that as one ends up with the loss of both the fish and the leader.

Here the braid is whip finished onto the line with tippet material or at home with fly tying thread and a bobbin holder.

### **To prepare your “Emergency Leader”:**

**#1:** Take a tapered copolymer leader and unwind carefully so as not to tangle it.

**#2:** Cut a nine inch section of braided mono, generally sold for backing or the manufacture of braided loops.

**#3:** Slide the mono up onto the butt of the leader and well down out of the way, it is just easier to thread it onto the leader first rather than later.

**#4:** Clamp the thick end in your fly tying vice and rough up the first six inches or so of the leader with sandpaper or a hook hone to provide some purchase for the braid.

**#5:** Then tie a double overhand knot in the butt of the leader in the middle of the roughed up section, wet it and pull very tight to form a neat and small bump. (The double overhand knot leaves the leader straight, using a single overhand knot will work fine but the leader will then have a kink in it).

**#6:** Then slide the braid back up the leader and over the knot and rough section such that a few inches of it overhang the butt of the leader itself.

**#7:** You will note that if you now pull the braid it is secure, trapped “Chinese Finger Knot Style” onto the leader butt.

**#8:** Take a bobbin holder with fly tying thread and spin a whip finish of thread around the bottom section of the braid and leader butt and trip the excess fibres of the braid. This primarily simply stops it fraying. Add a drop of superglue or varnish to the wraps for durability.

You now have a leader that can be threaded onto the fly line for a very smooth joint. I have been testing this connection for almost a season and had no problems with it at all. A good alternative to the superglue link.

### **To attach your newly manufactured leader to the line:**

#### **At home:**

Thread the braid up onto the tip of the fly line, with care you can overlap the line and leader inside the braid slightly for a super smooth finish. Using a bobbin holder and fly tying thread spin a whip finish around the braid to hold it onto the line. You don't need to actually have a great deal of strength in the whip finish, the braid will hold itself in place and grip more tightly the more it is pulled. The whip finish is just to prevent it falling off when not under load.

Take a separate loop of thread and holding it along the line add a few more spins with the bobbin, cut the tag end of the thread and thread it through the loop, then pull it through in a classic whip finish.

Snip off the frayed ends of the braid and add a drop of glue or varnish.

## On the River:

Thread the braid up the line as above then secure with a whip finish of tippet material. At a push you can simply put a drop of superglue on the end of the braid or even a drop of UV Knot sense just to hold it in place until you get home and can whip it on properly.

This connection has been tested for a good few months now and hasn't been found wanting. It also means that as a fishing guide I can carry a spare and put it onto any client's line should I need to without hassle.

The method is covered in a recently posted You Tube Video on the link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1D9tqbJRSE>

There are also detailed graphic instructions on the next page, try it out, I think that you will like the result.

Thanks

Tim Rolston



# Smooth Braid Leader Connection / Emergency Leader

**#1** Frictionless tapered copolymer leader



**#2** Slide a section of braided mono down onto the leader.



**#3** Roughen up the butt of the leader with hook hone and tie a very tight double overhand knot into it.



**#4** Slide the braid up the leader butt and over the knot so that it overhangs the end.



**#5** Pull braid tight, notice that it won't slip off under tension.



**#6** Whip finish the end and trim excess braid/ add drop of varnish to wraps



**#7** Thread tip of fly line up into the overhanging braid.



**#8** Whip Finish around the braid to secure and trim ends / add drop of varnish to wraps.



**#9** On stream emergency fitting, using tippet material

