



Catch More Fish.™

FISHING LINES GUIDE



Choosing the
Right Line for Success!

**MONOFILAMENT
BRAID
FLUOROCARBON**

by Buzz Ramsey

MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINES

While there are other choices available, monofilaments remain popular because they are easy to use and available at relatively low cost — even for premium brands like those featured here. Monofilaments are inherently stretchy, a feature (combined with rod bending) that will help you land big fish. For example, I once landed a 48-lb. Fall Chinook from Oregon's Trask River using only 8-lb. test mono. Line twist, mostly associated with spinning reel use, can be relieved by employing quality swivels. Another option, when not using a swivel, is to allow your line to untwist between casts. Easy: just let 6 to 10 feet of line extend from your rod tip and wait until your lure or bait stops spinning. Most line wear occurs near the end, which is why many anglers remove a few yards and re-tie when inspection reveals nicks or signs of excessive abrasion.

The key on selection is to pick a line with characteristics that match your unique fishing need. For example, if you fish for trout with a spinning reel, you likely want a monofilament line that casts and handles easily (Trilene® XL®) while resisting kinking and coiling. While these same qualities might be appealing when chasing steelhead or salmon, you also need the added feature of toughness - so your line will stand up to the added abrasion dished out by hard-fighting fish. And while each excels in the characteristics described, all were engineered to be well balanced in ease of handling, to resist twist and kinks, have high shock resistance, sensitivity, and knot strength.

Berkley® Trilene® XL® Monofilament

This "Extra Limp" line is the smoothest casting/handling monofilament fishing line on the market and Berkley's most popular for use on spinning reels.

- **Clear** - Most invisible monofilament in clear water.
- **Low-Vis Green** - Popular for its obscure appearance in green-colored water.

Berkley® Trilene® XT® Monofilament

This "Extra Tough" line offers durability, abrasion resistance, excellent knot strength and manageability. While XT® performs admirably on a spinning reel in light to medium pound tests; it excels when used on a bait cast reel.

- **Clear** - Most invisible monofilament in clear water.
- **Low-Vis Green** - Popular for its obscure appearance in green-colored water.

Berkley® Trilene® Sensation® Multi-Polymer

This "Multi Polymer" line offers exceptional strength, increased sensitivity, and abrasion resistance as compared to its diameter and is my favorite when used in combination with a spinning reel for trout and steelhead — performs excellent on baitcasters too.

- **Clear** - Most invisible monofilament in clear water.
- **Low-Vis Green** - Popular for its obscure appearance in green-colored water.
- **Hi-Vis Solar Green** - A line you can see and not spook fish when combined with a mono or fluorocarbon leader.



Berkley® Trilene® Big Game® Monofilament

Berkley's toughest most abrasion resistant monofilament fishing line designed for big, tough fish like steelhead, salmon, halibut and sturgeon. This line is super strong, shock and abrasion resistant whilst offering outstanding knot strength.

- **Low-Vis Green** - Popular for its obscure appearance in green-colored water.
- **Hi-Vis Solar Collector Green** - A line you can see and not spook fish when combined with a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader.

FLUOROCARBON FISHING LINES

The extreme popularity of fluorocarbon is due to them being invisible to fish. This is because, unlike monofilament, fluorocarbons refract light nearly identical to water. In addition, fluorocarbon lines are fast sinking and exhibit low stretch characteristics, which deliver enhanced sensitivity. Since fluorocarbons do not absorb water, they maintain their original strength and abrasion resistance.

Fluorocarbon lines perform differently than monofilament. For example, fluorocarbons resist line twist, which can make them difficult to manage when used on a spinning reel. You can overcome this characteristic by not filling your reel as full, relieve line twist by employing quality swivels, and by using light pound tests. For example, I rarely use more than 8-lb. test on a spinning reel. Since baitcast reels produce no line twist, fluorocarbons works just fine on them. In addition, fluorocarbon lines don't dissipate heat nearly as well as monofilament, which mean you'll need to take a few extra seconds when tying by wetting/lubricating your knots and making sure to cinch them up slowly.

While fluorocarbon lines are invisible to fish, realize that clear fluorocarbon can show up when surrounded by green-colored water, which is prevalent in many freshwater lakes and rivers. Anglers who previously employed low-vis green monofilament for its camouflage-like abilities now have a green tint fluorocarbon available under the Trilene® label. In addition, tinted fluorocarbons offer the added feature of diffusing unwanted light that has been known to occasionally traverse down the length of clear fluorocarbon and produce unwanted sparkle and flash.

Having your main line be invisible fluorocarbon is worthwhile when employing techniques where you will be tying directly to lure or bait. For example, I often use clear or green-tint fluorocarbon (depending on water color) when casting plug, spoon, and spinner or when fishing a jig. However, there are many methods, such as still-fishing PowerBait® or trolling for salmon, where you can use monofilament or braid as your main line in combination with an invisible fluorocarbon leader.



Berkley® Vanish® Fluorocarbon

Easy handling, 100% invisible fluorocarbon featuring excellent flexibility at an affordable price. Popular brand when targeting trout, pan-fish and walleye.

- *Clear*- The choice when fishing educated fish in clear water.

ALL-NEW! Berkley® Trilene® 100% Fluorocarbon- Professional Grade™

Features ultimate invisibility, high-impact strength, excellent manageability (the best among fluorocarbons), low memory, superior durability, and extreme knot strength.

- *Clear*- The choice when fishing educated fish in clear water.
- *Green Tint*- Matches green-colored water and will diffuse light piping, sparkle and flash.

ALL-NEW! Berkley® Big Game® 100% Fluorocarbon

Maximum durability and crimp strength, extremely tough 100% fluorocarbon available in 10 to 80-lb. test Leader Wheels and 100 to 400-lb. test Leader Coils. Aqua-blue color tint eliminates sparkle and flash that can occur with clear fluorocarbons.



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BRAIDED SUPER-LINES

Micro fibers, manufactured from gel-spun Polyethylene, are what super-lines are made of and what allow them to be stronger than other lines. For example, 6-lb. test FireLine® is the same diameter as 2-lb. monofilament and will cast 30 to 50 percent further than monofilament of equal test. Due to high-tech braids having almost zero stretch, they offer increased sensitivity. In addition, they float better than monofilament and are more tolerant of line twist, which makes them a dream-come-true for use on a spinning reel. When choosing pound test for a spinning reel, my advice is to use the same or one test higher than the monofilament you'd normally use.



It's different with baitcast reels, since most anglers choose a much heavier high-tech line than they would mono-filament often moving up two pound test categories or more. For example, if you've been using 25-lb. test monofilament for salmon, I would encourage you to select 40, 50 or 65-lb. test super-line. Follow this advice and you will have the benefit of both strength and performance - after all, 65-lb. test Fireline® Braid equals the diameter of 14-lb. test monofilament.

Note: Due to their smooth, slick exterior finish super-lines can slip on the reel spool, which might cause you to think your reel has a faulty drag mechanism. You can eliminate this risk by taping the line down - just place a 1-inch length of electrical or duct tape over your Arbor Knot. Another option is to splice your super-line to monofilament backing - used to fill the reel spool part way. A Uni-to-Uni knot is the best when splicing super-lines or joining monofilament and super-line together.



Berkley® FireLine® Original Fused

Designed to perform flawlessly on spinning reels, the FireLine® original dual manufacturing process- braided and then heat fused into a single strand- keeps FireLine® round (so it won't dig into your reel spool), provides body (to resist tip wrapping), and seals its exterior - makes FireLine® float higher than non- treated braids.

- **Low-Vis Smoke**- Popular for its obscure appearance.
- **Hi-Vis Flame Green**- A line you can see and not spook fish when combined with a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader.
- **Fireline® Crystal™**- Visible crystal above water, low-vis "translucent" underwater.

ALL-NEW! Berkley® FireLine® Braid

Designed to excel on baitcast reels. Radial construction keeps this line totally round for exceptional handling characteristics; and so it won't tip wrap or dig into your reel spool. Trolling or casting, this line is strong, smooth, durable, and offers extreme strength and shock resistance.

- **Low-Vis Moss Green**- Popular for its obscure appearance in green-colored water.
- **FireLine® Tracer Braid™**- Alternating 2.5-foot sections of Lo-Vis/ Hi-Vis colors for easy strike detection.

Buzz Ramsey is recognized as a fishing authority and professional angler. He works for Pure Fishing as Field Marketing Manager with duties that include grass-roots promotion, sales, advertising and product design as it relates to the cold-water trout, salmon and steelhead markets.

Buzz writes a regularly syndicated outdoor column, conducts fishing technique seminars, is a frequent guest on radio and TV fishing shows, and has produced numerous point-of-purchase "how-to" pieces designed to help anglers' catch-more-fish. In addition, the Buzz Ramsey name is used to "brand" several products including Berkley's "Buzz Ramsey" AIR IM-8 Salmon and Steelhead rods, which he designed.

Due to his environmental and conservation efforts and record fish accomplishments, he is a hall of famer for The Association of Northwest Steelheaders and The National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

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Fishing Line Selection Guide

* Preferred Pound Test

FISH SPECIES	TROUT	BASS	WALLEYE	STEELHEAD	SALMON	STURGEON	HALIBUT
MONOFILAMENT MAINLINE	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test
Berkley® Trilene® XL® or XT® ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK	2 to 10 (*6 lb)	6 to 12 (*10 lb)	6 to 12 (*8 lb)	8 to 20 (*10/12 lb)	17 to 30 (*25 lb)	25 or 30	25 or 30
Berkley® Trilene® Sensation® ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK	2 to 10 (*6 lb)	6 to 12 (*10 lb)	6 to 12 (*8 lb)	8 to 20 (*10 lb)			
Berkley® Trilene® Big Game™ ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK		12 to 30 (*10 lb)	8 to 12 (*8 lb)	8 to 20 (*12/15 lb)	20 to 30 (*25 lb)	25 to 40	25 to 40
HIGH-TECH BRAID MAINLINE	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test
Berkley® FireLine® ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK	3 to 6 (*4 lb)	20 to 30	6 to 10	10 to 20	20 to 30		
NEW Berkley® FireLine® Braid ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK		Flipping 30, 50 or 65		15 to 30	30 to 65 (*50 lb.)	50 to 80	65 or 80
LEADER	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test	Pound Test
Berkley® Vanish® Fluorocarbon or Trilene® Monofilament Leader	2 to 6 (*4 lb)	8 to 20	6 to 17				
Berkley® Trilene® 100% Fluorocarbon-Professional Grade™	2 to 6 (*4 lb)	8 to 25	6 to 15	8 to 15	15 to 25 (*25 lb)		
Berkley® Trilene® Big Game™ Monofilament or Fluorocarbon				8 to 15	15 to 60 (*25/30 lb)	25 to 60	50 to 400

KNOTS TO KNOW



Arbor Knot

Use to attach line to reel arbor.



Uni to Uni Knot

Use to splice lines together.

Overlap line ends about six inches, forming loop in one line.



Wrap tag end through the loop 5 times.



Pull tag end to tighten first knot around line.



Tie a second uni-knot with tag end of other line.

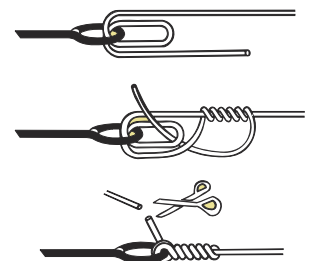


Pull both main lines to tighten and bring knots together. Trim ends.



Two-Turn Clinch Knot

Excels with monofilament and fluorocarbon.



Palomar Knot

Excels with mono, fluorocarbon and super-lines.



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