



# OFFC Education

## Fly Line Care

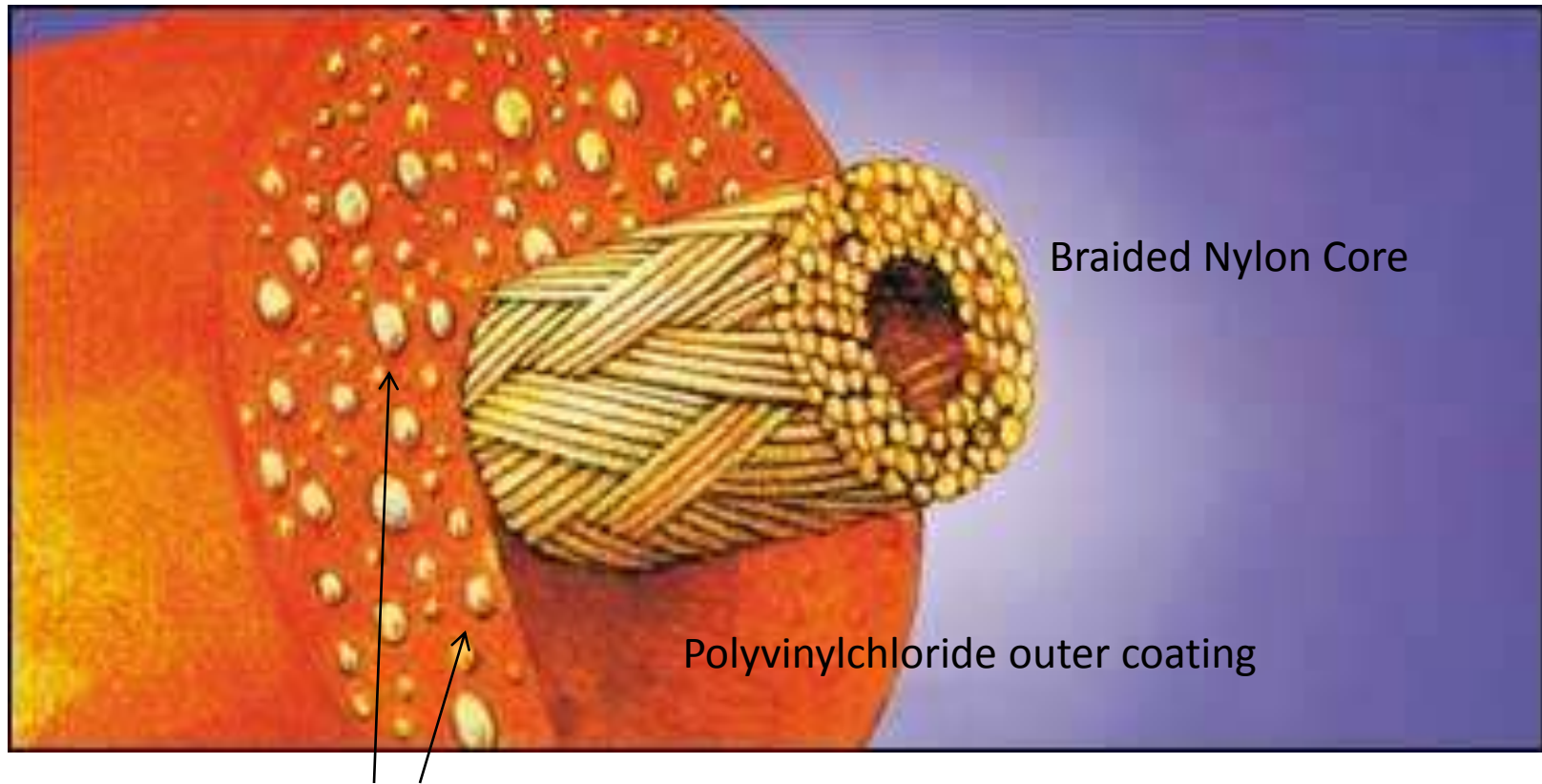
# Life of a Fly Line

- Fly line manufacturers state fly lines should last the average user 2-3 years, other state 200-300 hours of actual use.
- Fly lines last the longest if you care for them correctly

# Fly Line materials

- Most fly lines are made with a polyvinylchloride plastic coating over a braided nylon core (there are exceptions)
- The plasticizers in the line keep the line coating supple
- Over the course of time, the plasticizers leave the line resulting in the line cracking
- Things that accelerate plasticizers leaving the line are chemicals (DEET, Sunscreen and aerosols), dirt, heat and ultraviolet light.

# Fly Line Anatomy



Braided Nylon Core

Polyvinylchloride outer coating

Density materials (microspheres for floating, tungsten for sinking)

# Fly Line Profiles

(Courtesy of Cortland Line Company)

## FLY LINE PROFILES

<b>ROCKET TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPER	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE
Specially designed weight forward line with long front taper for delicate presentation. Weight distribution of body section allows extra distance.				
<b>DOUBLE TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPER	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE
The double taper is a reversible fly line with an identical taper at both ends. A double taper line is easy to mend.				
<b>BASS TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPER	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE
Weight forward line with short front taper to "turn over" heavier, wind resistant cork and hair body bugs. The most practical choice for bass bugs.				
<b>SALT WATER TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPER	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE
Weight forward line for casting larger flies during windy condition. Small diameter running line feeds through rod guides with less friction resistance.				
<b>WIND TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPERS	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE
Weight forward design that has a compound taper allows easier casts into the wind.				
<b>QUICK DESCENT TAPER</b>				
	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE	
Weight forward design that combines a 24 foot sinking head with a six feet rear floating section. Allows mending of line.				
<b>SHOOTING TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPER	BODY	LOOP	
Specialized for long distance casting. It is a 30' or 40' head with a factory spliced loop for attaching monofilament or running line.				
<b>LEVEL</b>				
No tapers or belly. Used for delicate fly presentation or when long casts are not essential.				
<b>CLEAR CREEK TAPER</b>				
TIP	FRONT TAPER	BODY	BACK TAPER	RUNNING LINE
Extended tips for pinpoint accuracy and most delicate presentation.				

# Use

- Casting on grass dirt or even water will get the fly line dirty and it should be cleaned after a few uses
- Keeping a line on a fly spool can impart memory into the line
- The outer coating can also be damaged by stepping on it, barnacles, dragging over rocks, even being tightly bent while stripping.

# Cleaning a fly line

## Two 5 gallon buckets method

(see Rio Website or YouTube: How to Clean and Maintain a Fly Line)

1. Use a mild soap like; Campsuds, Ivory or Biosuds (not detergent) to clean your line by putting a few drops in a half gallon of warm water inside a 5 gallon bucket.
2. Unwind your line into the soapy water and gently swish it around for 5 minutes and then leave it soak for 30 minutes
3. Pull the end of the line through a clean towel and feed it into another bucket with a gallon of clean warm water and swish it around to remove the soap
4. Empty and rinse the soapy water bucket and pull the line from the rinse bucket into the now clean but empty soap bucket, make sure you pull it through another clean towel (clean cloth baby diapers work well).
5. At this time your line should be clean and supple, reel it back on your reel or if you are storing the line for the winter, wind it on something that has a larger diameter (2-3 times larger) than your fly reel spool





# Fly Line Protectant

- There is a lot of opinions on what to use
- Some use ArmorAll, but some say it breaks the line down due to the solvents in the product
- Some use 303 Protectant as it stays on longer than ArmorAll and has no solvents
- Some use Silicone (you can get it at dive stores) and wipe it on directly to the line then wipe clean
- Or you can use other fly line dressings; Scientific Anglers, RIO AgentX, Umpqua, Glide, Fast Cast and RainX are just a few.

# Storing a fly line

- Winding your fly line on something of greater diameter than your fly spool will reduce the coiling of your fly line
- The spool your line came in works well, or you can use coffee cans, large diameter plastic pipe or cuban yoyo's
- Wind your line on the storage device loosely and then hold it on with a wide rubber band
- Some people use a cloth saturated with a protectant before winding it to reduce the line from deplasticizing.

# Storage

- Take your line that is wound around your storage device and put it in a plastic zip lock bag
- Store your line somewhere out of the light and away from any heat sources (some people put them in a freezer).
- If you have a lot of fly lines being stored, labeling them with a label machine or a key label helps organize them.
- I like to tie a short section of leader to the line with a nail knot and the other end with a precision knot to loop on a string connected to a key label.



# Summary

- Fly line gets dirty and abused
- Keep it clean, out of the sun and away from chemicals
- Use mild soap and water to clean
- Use a protectant to keep it supple
- Store it in a cool dark place
- Label it so you remember what it is

# Sources

- [Fly Anglers Online](#)
- [Rio Fly Fishing](#)
- [globalflyfisher.com](#)
- [Airflobishing.com](#)
- [Scientificanglers.com](#)
- [Cyberangler.com](#)
- [Cortland Line Company](#)
- [Iflyshop.com](#)