



# BASS FISHING BASICS

## WHAT LINE SHOULD YOU USE?



F I S H I N G

# TYPES OF LINE

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There are essentially three different types of fishing line that you need to concern yourself with: **braid**, **monofilament**, and **fluorocarbon**. In this guide, I will break down the differences in the different lines, and which type of line you should be using in most situations.

**Braided line** is multiple strands of fibers wrapped together that form stronger lines at thinner diameters when compared to monofilament or fluorocarbon lines. This means the diameter of the line is smaller, but the strength of the line is higher. Braided lines also have zero stretch and will float. The lack of stretch makes for a very sensitive line. A downfall of braided line is increased visibility to the fish.

**Monofilament line** is a single strand of material that often comes from nylon. Monofilament line will stretch, and float. Monofilament lines are also very inexpensive, and generally has a larger diameter. The stretch in the line also makes for decreased sensitivity.

**Fluorocarbon line** is a polymer and is resistant to heat and will not break down in UV light. Fluorocarbon is tougher than monofilament line. Fluorocarbon is also nearly invisible in the water, has very little stretch, and will sink.

# WHICH LINE TO CHOOSE?

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## **BRAIDED LINE**

The benefits of braided line are as follows:

- thinner diameter
- high strength
- zero stretch
- increased sensitivity
- floats

The thinner diameter of the braided line makes it perfect for many spinning rod applications. The thinner diameter allows the line to come off the spool easily. In many cases 10lb test braided line has the same diameter of 2lb test monofilament line. In situations where braided line is placed on a spinning rod, the angler will often tie a fluorocarbon or monofilament leader to the braided line using a connection knot.

Due to the lack of stretch in braided line, it has increased sensitivity which enhances bite detection when fishing slower presentations like drop shots, texas rigs, and jigs.

The fact that braided line has high strength ratings, and floats makes it ideal in many topwater scenarios as well. Topwater frog fishing is a technique where braided line is a must.

Another techniques where braided line is a must is when flipping, pitching, or punching around thick grass. The lack of stretch in braided line, allows it to cut through grass when setting the hook or fighting a fish.

# WHICH LINE TO CHOOSE?

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## MONOFILAMENT LINE

The benefits of monofilament line are as follows:

- stretches
- floats
- inexpensive

The amount of stretch in braided line can be a benefit in some fishing scenarios, but a detriment in others. The stretch can be ideal in situations where pulling hooks is likely or a problem. For example, in the summer when the water is at its hottest, the mouth of the fish is much easier to tear. I have found the likelihood of pulling the hooks out of a fishes mouth while fighting the fish is greatest in the summer. Switching to a monofilament line for the increased stretch could be a solution to this problem, or you could change to a more moderate action rod.

The floating properties of the monofilament line also make it ideal for topwater fishing scenarios. Having a line that sinks will pull your bait down into the water while working the bait, and in turn will negatively impact the action of the bait. Often anglers will use a braided main line, and add on a monofilament leader when fishing topwater walking baits. Braided line alone has a tendency to wrap around the hooks while fishing. Adding the monofilament line allows for the bait to float properly, and does not have the same tendency to wrap around hooks.

The fact that monofilament line is inexpensive makes it great for the casual or beginning fisherman. Everyone has to go through a learning phase with baitcasting reels. Using monofilament lines to learn make it less costly when a backlash ruins and entire spool of line.

# WHICH LINE TO CHOOSE?

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## **FLUOROCARBON LINE**

The benefits of fluorocarbon line are as follows:

- resistant to heat and UV light
- sinks
- tougher than monofilament
- very little stretch
- nearly invisible to fish

Fluorocarbon is the most expensive line of the three types, but with that price tag comes a lot of benefits.

The fact that fluorocarbon line is resistant to heat and UV light make it last a long time. It's not as likely as monofilament to break down while sitting out in the sun, or while being stored in a rod locker or hot garage.

It's also more abrasion resistant than monofilament line, has less stretch, and is also nearly invisible to fish. Fluorocarbon line almost sounds too good to be true. All these factors make fluorocarbon line perfect for all your slow moving presentations like a jig, texas rig, or carolina rig. Those same properties can also be perfect for moving baits like a crankbait, chatterbait, or spinnerbait.

Fluorocarbon line is not recommended for topwater fishing because it sinks. As mentioned earlier, the sinking of the line negatively impacts the action of a topwater bait.

# WHICH DO I CHOOSE?

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**TOPWATER** - braid, but will add monofilament leader on occasion

**CAROLINA RIG** - fluorocarbon to monofilament leader

**TEXAS RIG** - fluorocarbon

**JIGS** - fluorocarbon

**FROGS** - braid

**FLIPPING** - fluorocarbon unless around grass then I'll use braid

**PUNCHING** - braid

**CRANKBAITS** - fluorocarbon

**SPINNERBAITS** - fluorocarbon

**CHATTERBAITS** - fluorocarbon

# BRANDS I USE

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The logo for Seaguar, featuring the word "Seaguar" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

The logo for Sunline, featuring the word "SUNLINE" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font with a stylized "S" that incorporates a teal color.

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