

## Learner's Corner - Fly Fishing Equipment- Starting Off and Beyond!!!

Item	Low Price	High Price	Necessity: 1(a real luxury)- 10(Got to have)	Comment
Fly rod	\$30.00	\$800.00	10	Buy the best you can comfortably afford. You can buy a low end rod but if you stick with it, you probably will be unhappy later. Try to find one with a lifetime warranty. <b>Please don't buy any rod without casting it!!!!</b>
Fly reel	\$20.00	\$800.00	10	A good one is not as important as a good rod, at least for trout fishing. Get one with a serviceable drag. For stripers and saltwater a good reel is important. A nice reel is a beautiful thing
Fly line	\$20.00	\$129.00	10	Weight forward floating is what you will use 95% of the time.
Backing	\$5.00	\$30.00	9.5	You can get by without backing on your reel but I would not recommend it. You may never see it until you clean or change your line but it helps you reel in the fly line faster, reduces line memory (kinking), and is cheap insurance.
Waders	\$40.00	\$399.00	9.5	Don't buy neoprene or non-breathable. Buy breathable and lose weight some other way. You can wet wade in some places at some times but still an essential. I would recommend chest high stockingfoot waders (no built in boot).
Boots(for stockingfoot waders)	\$40.00	\$149.00	9.5	Buy felt or studded felt. Rubber soles are much improved and are an alternative. Decide if you want support or light weight; you really can't have both.
Flies	\$50.00	\$250.00	10	Start off with a selection of dries, nymphs, and streamers for trout. If you want to fish for stripers or salt water fish that is a different story.
Fly boxes	\$3.00	\$80.00	9.5	Unless you are into self-serve acupuncture, get some fly boxes. Cheap foam ones are o.k., but if you can afford it get waterproof boxes with a rubber gasket. One swim and you will see why.

Leaders	\$4.00	\$9.00	10	Start off with a knotless 9ft 4x leader. Also get 9ft 3x and 9ft 5x for trout and panfish. Stripers and largemouth 7-9 ft 0x or 1x. Saltwater 8-10 ft 14 lb leader or heavier depending on what you are fishing for.
Tippet material	\$4.00	\$16.00	10	Start off with 3x, 4x and 5x for trout. As you get better you can get some 6x, 7x and heaven forbid 8x if you really enjoy frustration. For stripers and largemouth bass you will want some 0x, 1x and 2x. Fluorocarbon is best for streamers and nymphing but it is more expensive.
Vest/chest pack	\$20.00	\$129.00	9.5	You can carry a lot of stuff in your shirt pockets but why would you want to do so.
Forceps	\$2.00	\$12.00	9.5	Don't lip a trout, that is what forceps are for.
Nippers	\$5.00	\$20.00	9.5	Your dentist doesn't like it when you use your teeth or does he?
Polarized glasses	\$10.00	\$300.00	9.5	You can do without if you don't mind squinting and not being able to see fish, deep holes, rocks and snakes
Wading staff	\$2.00	\$120.00	Small streams 3; Saluda 10	Like life insurance. When you don't need it, you wonder why you bought it; when you need it, you really need it!!! While you're at it, go to <a href="http://www.sceg.com/en/my-community/lower-saluda-river/">http://www.sceg.com/en/my-community/lower-saluda-river/</a> and sign up for telephone notification of water level increases
Floatation device	\$19.00	\$80.00	Small streams 2; Saluda 9	Swimming in waders and boots is no fun.
Strike indicators (before you took up fly fishing they were called corks, bobbbers, etc.	\$2.00	\$4.00	9	Don't nymph without it. Don't buy the pinch on kind. I like Tippers but you have to learn how to put them on or they will come off. Thingamabobbers are also great. Set it so it's about 1 1/2 -2 times the depth of the water you are fishing (see polarized glasses above). The fly should hit the bottom every now and then but not so often that you are reluctant to lift the rod to see what's there.
Good rain jacket	\$30.00	\$300.00	8	Why go to so much trouble to keep the rest of your body dry and then get soaked up top.

Net	\$10.00	\$90.00	8	Hopefully you'll need it and after all, you can't lip a fish (see forceps above). Don't buy the cheap aluminum one but don't buy the \$90 one either. All net bags (except rubber ones) no matter what the price tear and most net frames delaminate after a time. I prefer the inexpensive catch and release style. You can put it on your vest with bungee cord or buy a magnetic net release. Look out for backlash.
Split shot assortment	\$1.00	\$6.00	8	Buy an assortment in a container. Forget the real small sizes, you can hardly get them on and they will not stay on a lot of time.
Subtotal	\$317.00	\$3,723.00		315.00 for a life time of frustration, that's not too bad is it!!!!
Midge twister	\$20.00	\$20.00	8	Like a third hand. Ties knots, holds flies, etc.
Zingers	\$5.00	\$10.00	7	Very helpful, but wrap the pin holding it on your vest with stripped wire from a trashbag tie.
Hat	\$1.00	\$20.00	7	You probably got one, but what the heck ask for one for father's day and maybe you'll get it instead of another tie.
Dry fly floatant	\$3.00	\$6.00	7	To refloat dry flies hopefully after they have been slimed by the fish's mouth.
Knot tyers	\$6.00	\$20.00	6	Not as good as fingers or midge twister but helpful sometimes
Stream thermometer	\$7.00	\$20.00	5	Nice to know how cold the water is, as if your legs and feet were not telling you.
Flyline cleaner and treatment	\$5.00	\$10.00	5	Be careful what you use. A clean line casts easier and farther.
Loon® UV Knot Sense	\$5.99	\$7.99	5	A little peace of mind until your knots get better.
Strike putty	\$4.99	\$6.99	5	Helps when a strike indicator/bobber is too big!
Hook hone	\$4.99	\$10.99	5	Miss a fish sharpen a hook. Really important for saltwater stuff.
Total	\$379.97	\$3,854.97		Well, that is what a home equity line is for.