

Big Lake Bass Team

Fishing Lines, what's all the fuss ...



Jason Parks, Lawrence Luoma, Kris Knodle and Noel Krebs



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Fishing Line Characteristics

Memory

- When you pull line off of your reel, does it lay flat or curl? That is line memory. Line with a lot of memory tends to curl, kink or knot as you reel in. It messes with your presentation and does not cast as far

Stretch

- Stretchy line keeps tension better as you fight a fish. It also takes some of the punch out of big head shakes. However, stretch gives you less precision and feedback, and makes setting the hook tougher.

Shock Strength

- Another advantage of having some stretch is that your line is less likely to snap under sudden pressure. This is shock or impact strength, and it stops hard-hitting fish from breaking you off.

Abrasion Resistance

- Ever get cut off by rocks while fishing? You need gear with more abrasion resistance. All modern line is pretty abrasion resistant, but more high-end materials tend to handle scratches better.

Buoyancy

- Some line floats in the water, some sinks. They're both useful in different situations. Floating or buoyant line is great for topwater fishing. Sinking line stays taut in the water, giving you more precision at depth.

Visibility

- If a fish sees your line, it can get spooked and put off biting. To avoid this, people usually use low-visibility line in clear water. You can also use colored line to match the depth and shade of water you're fishing.

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Monofilament – Ol' Faithful

Monofilament is a fancy way of saying “single thread.” That’s exactly what this is, a single piece of plastic, usually nylon, that’s stretched out and set into a thin tube. Mono has been around since the '30s. It may not be high-tech, but it’s a reliable “jack of all trades” and is still the most popular line out there.

Pros

- Cheap
- Easy to use
- Casts Smoothly
- Holds knot well
- Relatively low memory
- Easy to pick out of backlashes and bird’s nest

Cons

- Does not last very long – damaged by sun and heat
- Much weaker than line of similar diameter

Characteristics

- Lot of stretch
- High shock strength, but less precision
- Buoyant – great for surface lures, but bad for bottom lures



Copolymer – A Classic, Re-engineered

Copolymer fishing line is essentially an improved version of monofilament. It's made in the same way, but with two or more materials instead of one (usually different forms of nylon). This lets manufacturers refine their recipe and tailor the line's characteristics to certain uses.

Pros

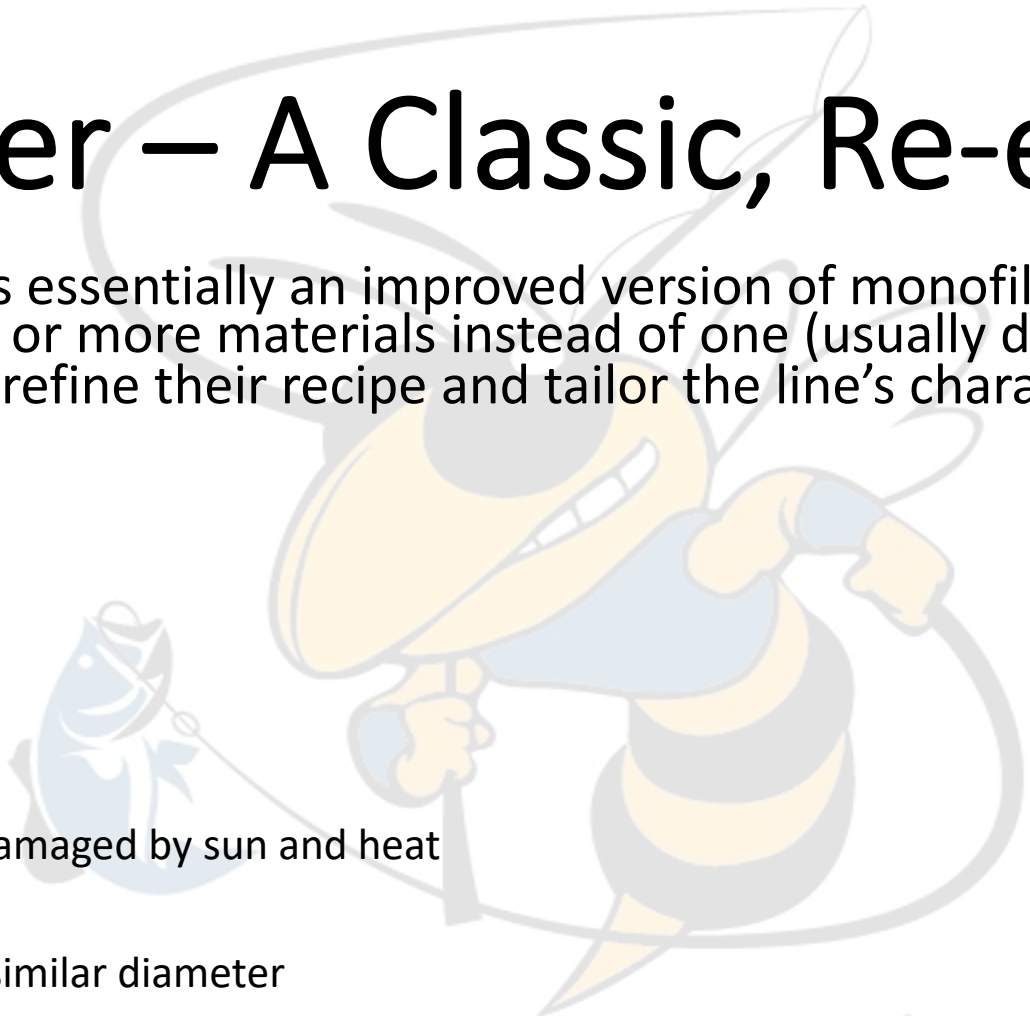
- Casts Smoothly
- Holds knot well
- Abrasion resistant
- Lower memory than Mono

Cons

- Does not last very long – damaged by sun and heat
- More expensive
- Much weaker than line of similar diameter

Characteristics

- Nylon based
- Lower stretch than Mono while maintaining shock strength
- Do not normally float



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Fluorocarbon: Fishing in Stealth Mode

Fluorocarbon line is made in the same way as mono, but from much denser material. Fun fact: It's in the same family as the stuff that stops your pan sticking (teflon) and keeps your freezer cold (freon). Fluoro first appeared on the scene in the '70s. Back then, it was so stiff and difficult to manage that it was only usable as a leader. Things have come a long way since then.

Pros

- Practically invisible underwater
- Super abrasion resistant
- Last longer

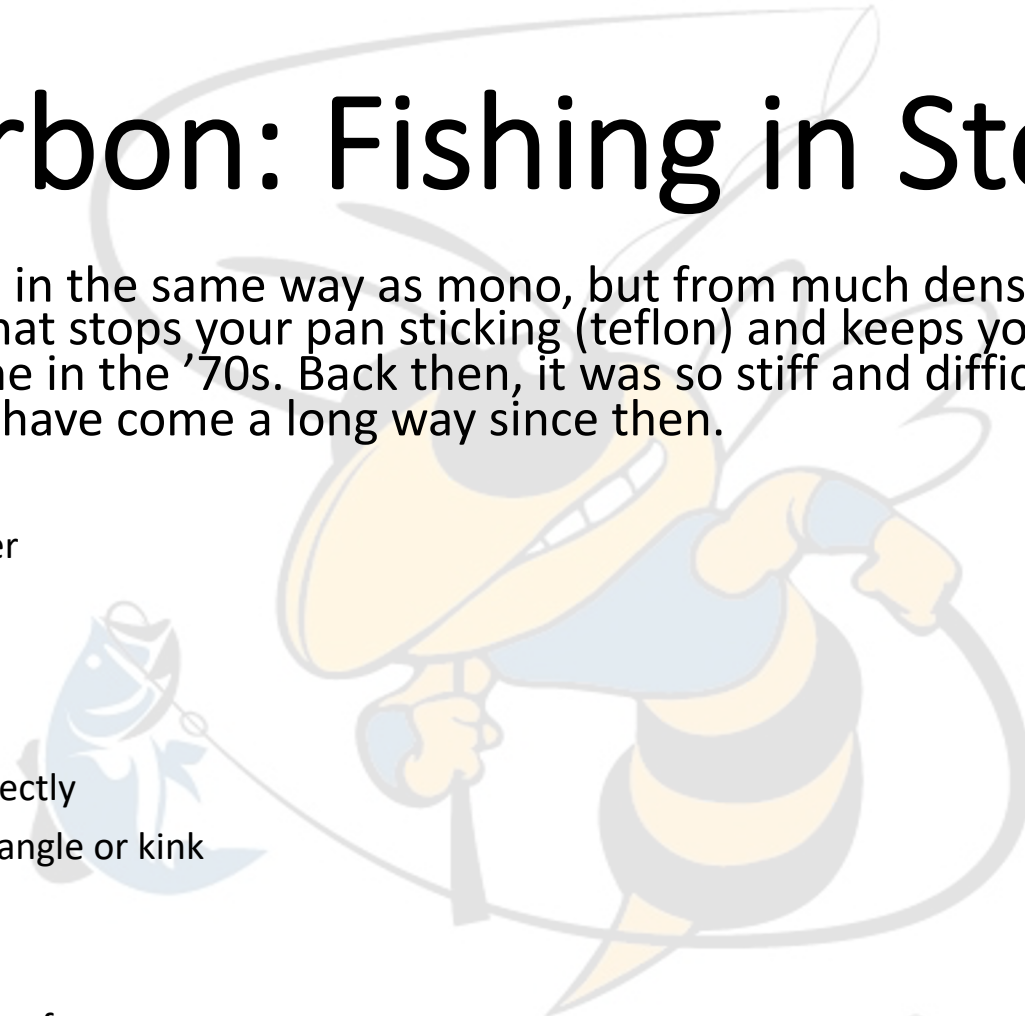
Cons

- Knots can fail – if not tied correctly
- High memory can cause it to tangle or kink
- EXPENSIVE

Characteristics

- Can stretch – when under a lot of pressure
- High shock strength with no loss of precision
- Extremely sensitive, gives feedback even when in slack
- High end and high performance

Fluorocarbon is a fast-sinking line, so you'll mainly use it with jigs, dropshots, and other precise bottom tactics. You can use very light line on a spinning reel, but it's better suited to baitcasters. As you may have guessed, its primary use is for fishing in very clear water. Many people also attach a few feet of fluoro as a leader to throw off sight-based predators like Northern Pike.



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Braid: High Price, Low Profile

All the types of fishing line we've covered so far have been pretty similar. The material might change, but the production process is more or less the same. Braid is completely different. It's made by weaving together several strands of polyethylenes like Dacron, Spectra, and Dyneema. This produces a super-thin line that could stop a swordfish in its tracks.

Pros

- Built to last
- Abrasion resistant
- Strongest line

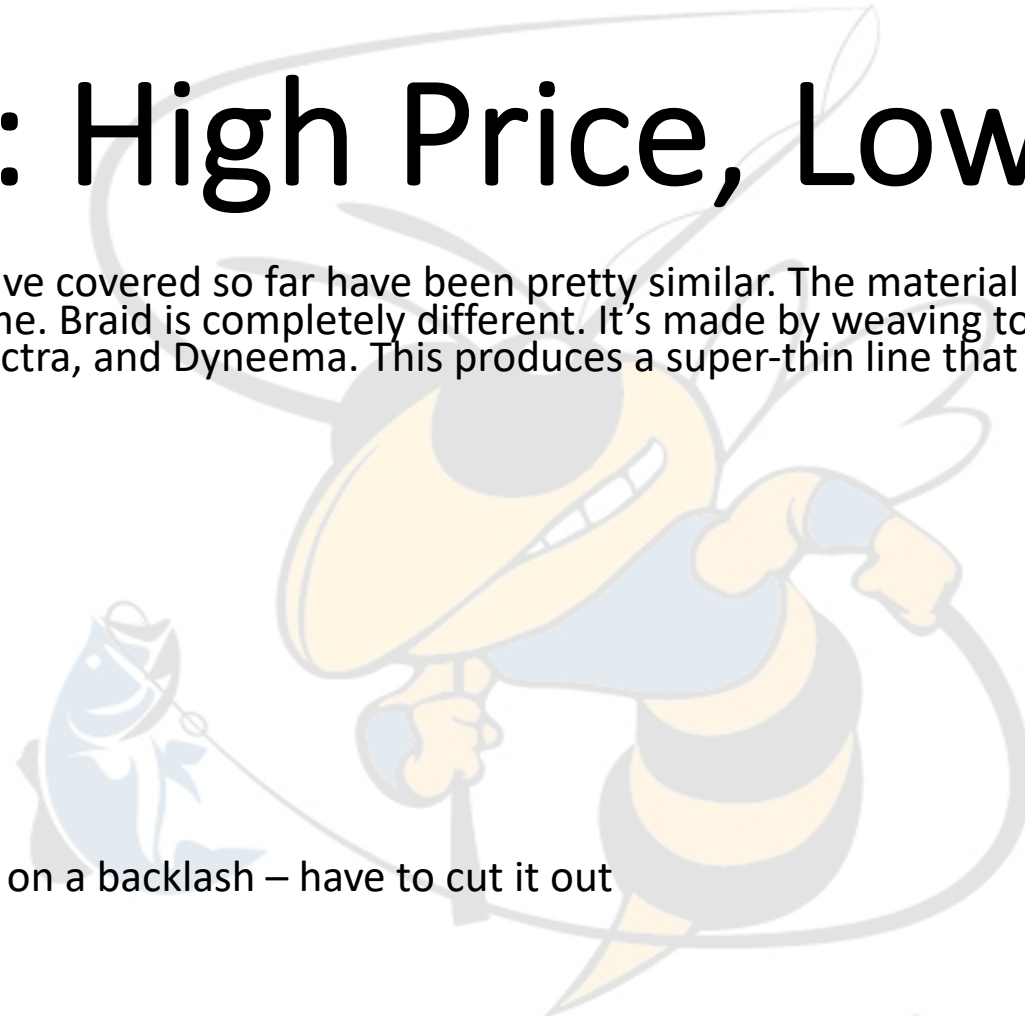
Cons

- Hard to tie knots
- Stands out in the water
- Can bury itself in your reel on a backlash – have to cut it out
- Most expensive

Characteristics

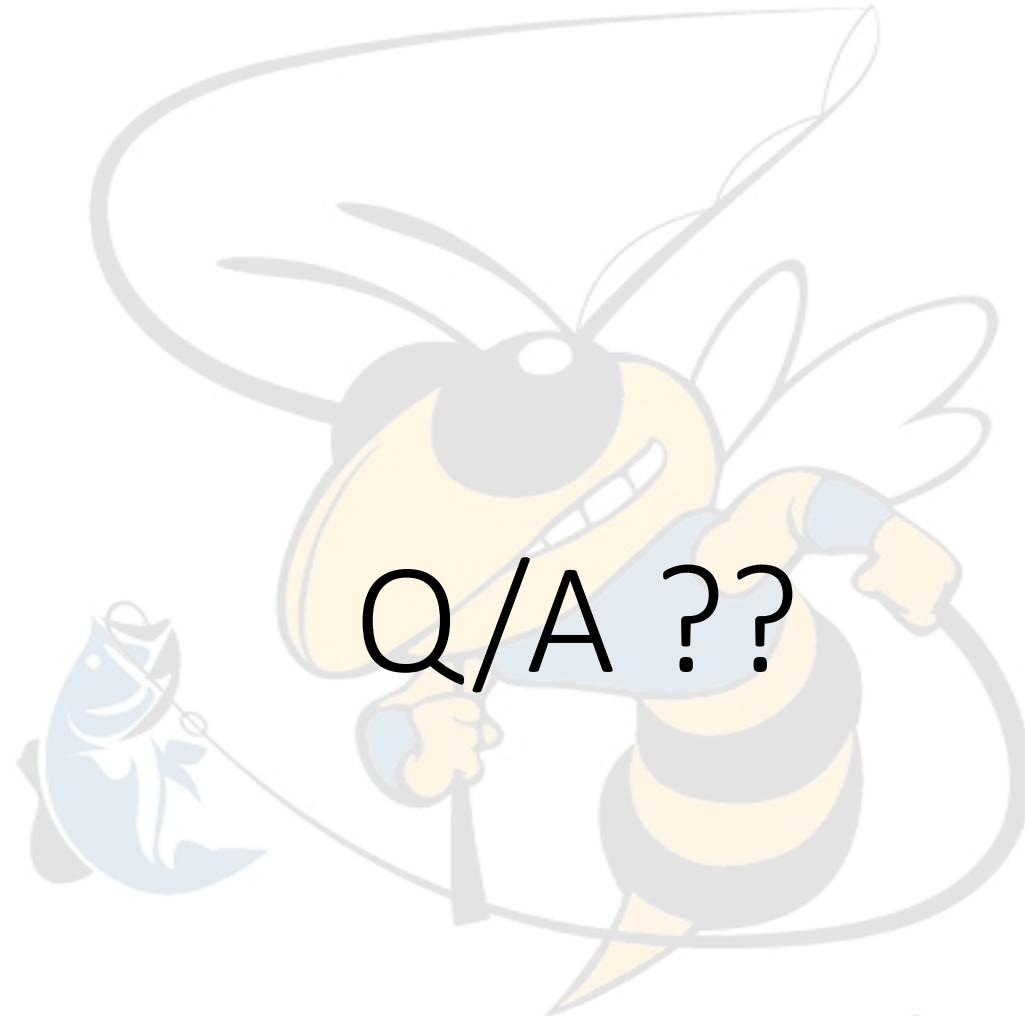
- No memory
- No stretch
- Low shock strength

Braid is perfect if you're fishing in low-visibility waters or need a lot of line on your spool. Deep dropping and precision jigging are common uses. It's also great for working weeds and heavy vegetation, as it will slice right through rather than getting caught up. You'll normally find braid on spinning reels, but you can use it on any type of reel, if it's decent quality.



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DACRON SPECTRA DYNEEMA



Q/A ??

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