

Equipment Guide

The Joe Humphreys' Fly Fishing Stream School - Inspired by the Methods of Joe Humphreys

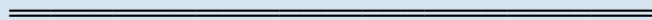
KNOW YOUR GEAR

The Fly Angler's Equipment Guide

Parts of a Fly Rod

FLY ROD DIAGRAM

TIP-TOP (tiny guide at very tip)



MID GUIDES (guide the line)



BUTT GUIDE (largest)

REEL SEAT (holds reel)

BUTT/HANDLE (grip area)

Understanding Line Weight

Weight	Best Use
4-weight	Lightweight, small streams
5-weight	VERSATILE - STANDARD FOR AGES 14+
6-weight	Heavier, wind and larger flies

The Fly Line System

[REEL] FLY LINE (90ft) LEADER BUTT (24-36") LEADER (7-9ft) TIPPET (18-24") FLY

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Essential Gear Checklist

- WADING BELT: NEVER wade without one. Prevents water from filling waders.

"We need to be stewards of the stream. You don't have to pick the fish up out of the water and wave it around. Keep it in the water. We have to work on water quality." - Joe Humphreys

- LANDING NET: Rubber-mesh, knotless. Keeps fish wet and safe.

- FORCEPS/PLIERS: For quick, clean hook removal.
- POLARIZED SUNGLASSES: See through glare to spot fish.
- FLY BOX: Organized, easy to access. Keep it simple.
- SUNSCREEN & HAT: Stream sun is intense. Reapply often.

Starter Fly Box - What You Need to Catch Fish

Fly Name	Size	What It Does
Hare's Ear Nymph	#14-16	Mayfly imitation, riffles and runs
Copper John	#14-16	Fast-sinking attractor
Elk Hair Caddis	#12-16	Caddis dry, excellent visibility
Parachute Adams	#14-18	Classic all-purpose dry
Woolly Buzzer	#8-12	Streamer, big trout magnet

Joe's Tip on Gear: A quality fly line makes a real difference in how your casts feel and how your flies drift. For tippet, fluorocarbon is worth the extra cost - it sinks better, is less visible underwater, and the Davy Knot's short quarter-inch tag end means you use less of it per tie. Start simple: the rod for your age tier (see Age Tiers), a matched fly line, and fluorocarbon tippet in 4X and 5X covers most situations. Advanced note: for dry flies, nylon/mono floats better - but for this school we keep it simple and fish fluorocarbon.