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TETHERING BEST PRACTICES

The following are our best-practice tethering techniques to optimize tag retention.

The MiniPAT-390 nose (introduced in 2022) does not require leaving a gap between the nose and the crimp.

- If you choose to use monofilament material, you may notice it isn't as tight against the thimble compared to stainless steel wire—that's ok!
- If you are using a material not supplied by Wildlife Computers, you must decide on the spacing against the thimble. In general, the distance is *more* for stiff tethers (monofilament) and *less* for flexible tethers (steel cable).
- If using monofilament, before threading the line through the sleeves or Domeier dart anchors (if applicable), cut the material at an angle so it comes to a point. This facilitates threading.
 - Use a razor blade to cut the mono to prevent burrs.
 - Expect a snug fit through the sleeves and dart.
- Ensure heat-shrink tubing does not overlay the thimble. It is ok for the heat-shrink tubing to approach the distal end of the thimble.
- Use caution when applying heat shrink. Use just enough heat to shrink the tubing.
 - Too much heat can damage the leader material, particularly mono.
 - Some clients use hot water to apply the heat-shrink.
 - Do not use a cigarette lighter!
- If you plan to add additional devices to your tether (i.e., swivels or releases), contact your Technical Sales Consultant to discuss your plans.



Conduct a float test in freshwater or saltwater after rigging your tag to ensure your final set-up is positively buoyant.

Materials Wildlife Computers can supply and have been used for tether testing are:

- 1.8 mm 300# monofilament (Momo, Hi-Catch Classic, 300#, clear).
- 0.9 mm (100#) monofilament (Jinkai 100# Test Clear).
- 3/64" (270#) stainless steel (McMaster-Carr, 3461T35, extra-lubricated, strand core).
- 1/32" (100#) stainless steel (McMaster-Carr, 3461T325, extra-lubricated, strand core).
- Ancor Marine grade 1/8" adhesive-lined heat-shrink—used on all steel cable tethers to increase stiffness/diameter. Only applied to monofilament on request.
- Ancor Marine grade 3/16" adhesive-lined heat-shrink—used on stainless steel cable to cover the crimp closest to the tag.
- Nicopress Cat. No: 168-2-VB4 (for 300# mono) and 168-1.5-VB4 (for 3/64" stainless steel) and 168-1-VB4 (for 1/32" stainless steel) stainless oval sleeves.
- Jinkai size-J stainless oval sleeves (for 100#) 60-100# test sleeves.
- Nicopress 33V-CG-B crimping tool (available for purchase at Wildlife Computers)—compatible with the 300# mono crimps, 3/64" stainless steel crimps.

For specific tethering needs, please work with your Wildlife Computers Technical Sales Consultant by emailing tags@wildlifecomputers.com.