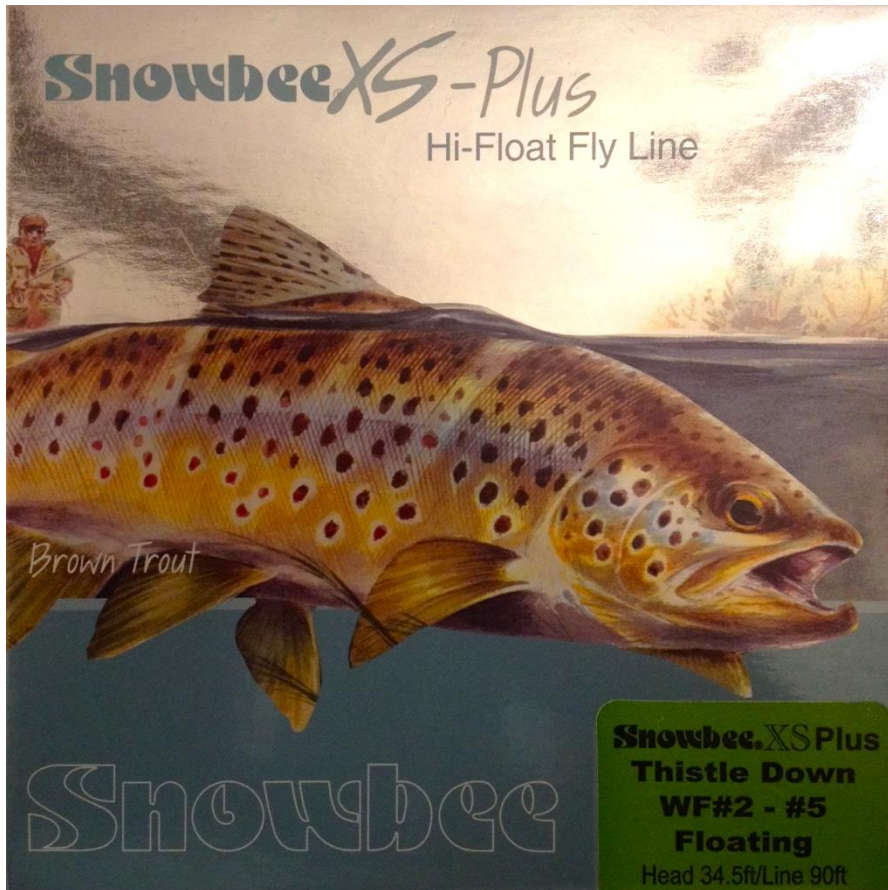


The new Snowbee XS-Plus

"Thistledown" WF 2wt to 5 wt floating fly line

by

Andrew Mather



No... it's not a typo... this line is rated 2wt to 5wt.

Well like you I was curious to see what this was like and so asked the Kingfisher to order it for me. How could a line be made to cover this range?. What magic has been bestowed on this line?. I tried to see what Snowbee had on their website for this line. Drew a blank here as Snowbee had yet to list this line let alone review it. So having had no success on the World Wide Web, not even a review by anybody, I did a little research on standard single AFTMA rated fly lines.

#AFTMA	Weight in grains of first 30' of line	Weight range in grains of first 30' of line
2	80 (5.18 grams)	74-86
3	100 (6.48 grams)	94-106
4	120 (7.78 grams)	114-126
5	140 (9.07 grams)	134-146

The line arrived after about two weeks and at R525 is probably pretty competitively priced particular if you consider that it covers 4 different rods weights.

Snowbee claim that this fly line is constructed using a combination of new materials. Using an all-new ultra-fine core, bonding agent and XS Nano composition coating, these elements combine to produce a floating line that is thinner than ever and able to cut through the air. On top of that, defying the general principal of matching one line weight for one rod.

I was interested to see how this line weights up on the AFTMA scale. The first 30ft of line weighted in at 9 grams (± 140 grains)... pretty much equivalent to a standard 5 wt. fly line. Perhaps not a surprise as it would at least need to be able to load a 5 wt rod. But then what's the difference???

Weight wise, I found that the first 20ft equated to a #2 wt and thereafter the line became the perfect weight for a 3wt at 23,5ft, 4 wt at 28 ft and finally 5wt at 30ft. The running line is very thin and starts at 34,5 ft to 90ft.

Taper wise this line is a 6" tip, 11'6" front taper, 17' body and a 5'6" rear taper. See how it stacks up against other lines in Table below.

Tested on #2/3, #3, #4, #4/5, #5 weight fly rods, this single 'multi-weight' fly line performs adequately throughout. I'm not the greatest of casters but I managed 45ft with the 5 wt and 35ft on the 2/3 wt with relative ease. By design, it's probably not the best casting line available but this line can be used for dry fly and can be used to switch between nymphing and dry fly giving it a even wider appeal over a range of applications. It's thin profile, and adequate energy transmission will turn a fly adequately for most fly fisherman. If you are pushing the limits of distance or accuracy then you had better go buy a specialist line.

Lastly there's also a 6 to 9 wt floating line for the guys targeting the bigger fish and the salt...maybe some else will report back on this line.