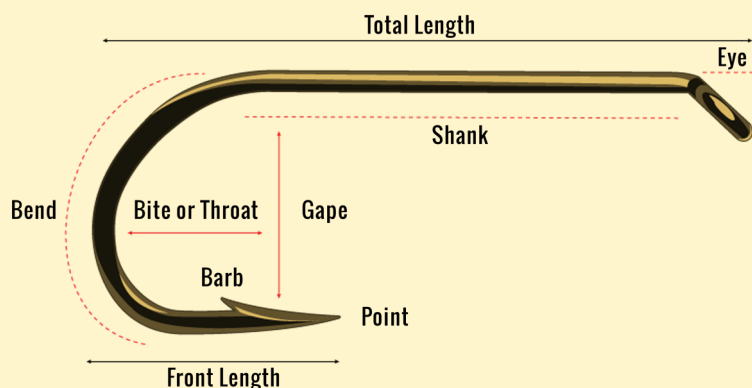




A Primer on Hook Anatomy



Total Length: Overall length of hook from tip of eye to bend.

Shank: Part of the hook from behind the eye to the beginning of the bend, typically directly above the space between the point and the barb. Standard shank length is defined as the distance of twice the gape plus the width of the eye. An 'X' system is used to denote

longer or shorter than standard lengths. Each 'X' represents one hook size, so a size 6, 2x long (2XL) has a shank length of a standard size 4 hook. A size 6, 2x short (2XS) would have a shank length of a standard size 8 hook. Shanks can be straight or curved.

Bend: Curved portion of the hook ending just before the point. Bends can be round, limerick, sproat, or reversed offset.

Bite or Throat: Distance from the top of the bend to its intersection with the gape.

Gape (or Gap): Distance between the hook shank and the point. A standard gape is slightly less than half the standard hook shank length. Hook sizes are based upon gape.

Barb: Sharp projection near the end of a hook that is angled away from the main point to make extraction difficult. Some hooks have mini-barb and some are barbless to facilitate 'catch & release'.

Point: Sharpened end of the hook that penetrates the fish's mouth.

Eye: Ring, hole or loop at the end of the shank to which the fly line (tippet section) is attached. Eyes can be angled straight, up, or down from the shank.

Front Length: Distance from top of bend to end of the point.

Wire Gauge: In addition to the parts of the hook's anatomy, hooks are also made from various standardized wire gauges or thicknesses. Gauges run from very thin wire to thicker gauge wire, ofte referred to as fine wire, heavy wire, extra heavy, 2X heavy, 3X heavy, etc.