Choose the line type:

There are three families of Spey lines for Switch rods: “Skagit”, “Scandinavian” and “Switch”

**Skagit:** Shooting head - best for big flies and sinking tips – easy to cast.

**Scandinavian:** Shooting head - ideal for smaller flies and better presentation – easy to cast

**Switch:** Integrated lines with attached running line.

→ Choose a Skagit line for anglers wanting to cast big flies and/or sink tips

→ Choose a Scandi line for customers who want to fish a floating line, or with smaller flies

→ Choose a Switch line for customers that don’t want the hassle of connecting heads to shooting lines

Choose the right line weight.

“Spey” gets complicated because some lines are measured in “grains” not “line size”. Knowing the grain range per line size helps you match a suitable grain weight line to a customer’s rod. Here’s a grain weight to line size conversion guideline. **Novice casters should err towards the upper end of the grain range for Skagit heads and towards the lower end for Scandi heads.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Size</th>
<th>Grains</th>
<th>Grams</th>
<th>Line Size</th>
<th>Grains</th>
<th>Grams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>275-325gr</td>
<td>18-21g</td>
<td>#7</td>
<td>450-525gr</td>
<td>29-34g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>300-375gr</td>
<td>20-24g</td>
<td>#8</td>
<td>500-575gr</td>
<td>32-37g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>375-450gr</td>
<td>24-29g</td>
<td>#9</td>
<td>575-650gr</td>
<td>37-42g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Switch Lines have the same line designation as rods, so choose a #5 for a #5, a #7 for a #7 and so on.**

One frequently missed conversion is that a rod requires less line weight to load it when overhead casting, so if using a Switch rod for predominantly overhead casting, go with the lowest end of the above guideline.
Choose the right head length.

“Switch” rods require a shorter head length to cast than regular two-handed “Spey” rods. RIO has made it easy to choose the right line by using the word “Short” in the product name. Choose a [Skagit Max Short](http://www.rioproducts.com/RIO-Spey-Line-Recs.pdf) for big flies or a [Scandi Short VersiTip](https://vimeo.com/70431251) (depending on point 1 above) for example.

As far as the dedicated “Switch” lines go, the [Switch](http://www.rioproducts.com/RIO-Spey-Line-Recs.pdf) line has a long head of around 55ft, which is ideal for anglers that want the ability to mend at long range. Choose this if mending ability is one of the primary considerations.

The [Switch Chucker](http://www.rioproducts.com/RIO-Spey-Line-Recs.pdf) is short and very easy to cast. It is the best choice for anglers wanting an integrated line that will throw indicator rigs or sink tips, and a particularly excellent choice for novice Switch rod users.