

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Leaders?

Re: Leaders?

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My typical nymphing set-up is a short (4' +/-) furled leader butt that I build, greased with Muscilin, with a straight fluoro tippet attached (usually 3x or 4x). The tippet is typically 2x the water depth. The furled leader butt is actually an extension of the fly line. I try to keep the leader on the surface and I use it as my "sighter" for strike detection. Sometimes I'll swipe some strike putty on the leader for better visibility.

I prefer to use weighted nymphs (2 or 3) but may add or remove small split shot or tungsten putty to fine-tune the drift. In faster, deeper water, when you get your rig balanced properly, you can use the sense of feel as well as sight. It's really like a Czech nymphing setup. I'm fishing with all tippet in the water, because as Jay pointed out, heavy line in the current will definitely create drag on the flies and also make strike detection tough.

The thing I really like about the whole system is, since I use the same furled leader for fishing dries, I can easily change over and fish the surface without much bother. This furled leader rig really works well for me.