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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Tandem combinations

Re: Tandem combinations

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I've experimented a lot with tying the dropper from the bend of the hook versus tying from tag end of the knot from the fly. IMHO, my hooking percentage goes up when tied to the tag. I theorize that the when a fish tries to engulf the fly, the tippet gets in the way and pushes the fly away from the fish. Try it both ways every time you fish and see which way works better. Even if you don't see any difference, there are also other advantages to using the tag end for droppers:

First, one less knot to tie. You only need to tie two knots instead of three. One knot to the first fly, leaving a long tag end, and one knot to the second fly. No knot to tie to the bend, and then to the second fly.

Secondly, one less knot to fail.

Third, parachute flies when tied at the bend have a tendency not to float upright when the dropper tied to the bend inevitably slips down towards the barb.

Fourth, since most flies are tied with the hackle up front and the hackle supports (disperses) most of the weight of the fly in the film, a smaller dry fly can be used. With a lot of flies (especially Catskill and parachute mayflies) tying from the bend tends to sink the dry quicker since the rear of the fly has less support.

Just food for thought. Try for yourself.