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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Fishing small wild trout runs

Re: Fishing small wild trout runs

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URL:

Barbless has very much correct. The one small exception I'd take is the piling up the tippet part. While I do it, and it works, it only gains you a little. Brookies won't stand for a fly dragging way across the surface making a wake, but they're not too picky about micro-drag. Lip currents give you the former type, quickly, and a piled leader only helps for an extra second or so.

Positioning, and use of anchors, plays a more major role in my game. What I mean by that is that, in a small stream, it's very common that you stand in a riffle and fish the pool above, i.e. you'll be faced with lip currents repeatedly. But usually, there's a bend in the stream, or at least rocks sticking out of the water in that tailout. On the cast, lay your fly line over the bank, or one of those rocks. It gives you an anchor point so that the heavier currents aren't pulling your line down the riffle, inducing severe drag.

In the absence of a proper anchor, you have to get above the riffle to fish that hole effectively, or from the side, and keep line out of the faster water.

As for leaders, I use Joe Humphrey's tight brush formula, as seen in the book "Trout Tactics". But honestly, I think you could get away with something as simple as breaking it into thirds.

1st third - Thick and stiff

2nd third - medium and stiff

last third - tippet. 4xish and reasonably supple.

If you want a little smoother turnover, taper that mid section some (split it into 2 or 3 sections). But on a short leader, that'll get the job done, and having a third of it being butt and a third being tippet remains appropriate. The bulk of the tapering part should be the middle 3rd.

I wholeheartedly concur about keeping the total leader length SHORTER than the rod. Not so much about fishability, as frustration. You throw two casts, reel in and move, throw two casts, etc You don't want to have to get that knot through every time, as screwing around with the rod tip, or even a bunch of false casts to work out line, is a recipe for frustration and spooked fish. So hook the fly to your hook keeper or guide, however you're gonna walk. Look up, make sure there's fly line beyond the tip top. If you have a 7' rod, that likely means a leader no longer than 6'.