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Subject: : [Beginner Forum](#)

Topic: : [Getting it to the bottom ....](#)

Re: [Getting it to the bottom ....](#)

Author: : [Heritage-Angler](#)

Date: : 2014/4/22 15:34:54

URL:

Looks like some "training wheels" are in order....

Most people think of a strike indicator as just that - it tells you when you either are stuck on the bottom, or a fish took your fly. There's more to it than that.....

Try this. Pick up a pack of yarn indicators. They suck for casting, but they work really well for learning how to nymph fish.

Pinch your leader into a small loop, put the tip of the loop through the loop at the bottom of the indi far enough so that you can then pass the entire indi back through the loop, and pull to take out slack. Try to position the indi at 1 1/2 to 2 times the depth of the water away from your split shot.

Place the shot a foot or less from the fly - 6 to 8" is ideal. You're fishing the shot, not the fly. When fishing shot, the fly can actually be anywhere within this short distance between shot and fly. Having the shot closer to the fly lessens reaction time to a strike, for both you and the indicator.

Grease up the indicator well with your favorite paste or gel floatant. Be generous with it, and do it before you get the indi wet.

Now for the meat and potatoes of this....

When you are drifting this rig downstream, the position of the indi will tell you what's going on with the shot. Think of it as a drift indicator, not so much as a strike indicator.

If the indi is floating along completely vertical, and not twitching occasionally, you either need more weight, or the distance between shot and indicator isn't long enough. More likely you need more weight.

If the indi is leaning upstream, the shot is downstream of it. Again, need more weight.

If the indi is leaning downstream, and twitching occasionally, you're good. This means that the shot is in the slower current at the bottom. The indi should be moving slower than the surface bubbles.

Most of the time, you can just make adjustments to the shot (size/amount) to get the desired results, but if you really botched the depth estimate, you may have to increase the distance between indi and shot.

Fish the indi as you would a dry fly, meaning you want to mend to prevent drag. Let the position of the indi tell you if your shot is ticking bottom.

There's a LOT more to nympling than just this method, but it's an easy start for a newb. Hope this helps...

Attach file:

 indicators.JPG (14.50 KB)

