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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Favorite tandem/ threesome

Re: Favorite tandem/ threesome

Author: : jayL

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URL:

I almost always nymph with three flies. I use blood knot droppers

My formula is as follows:

1st fly: moderately weighted attractor nymph or emerger. I try usually use a staple food like a caddis larva, scud, or sowbug, depending on what the stream has. I will also occasionally put an emerger on here, because when high sticking, it will ride higher in the column.

The second fly comes off a blood knot as well. This one is my weight. I tie a variety of heavily weighted simple walt's worms for this purpose. They imitate anything and everything. I choose a properly weighted fly for the conditions. In very shallow water, I'll replace the walt's worm with an unweighted green weenie or some other generic fly.

The third fly is tied directly to the tippet, and is usually whatever I think is hatching. 90% of the time, I use a PT soft hackle. The last fly swims the best, and will catch most of the fish. I have found that tying blood knot droppers has increased hookups on the other flies, so I do avoid tying in at the bend, I also use scuds or zebra midges here if nothing is hatching.

If I don't have enough weight on my flies to get it down, I use shot as needed. Afish also gave me some tungsten tacky weight, which is great.

I also like to fish tandem dries or dry/dropper rigs when fishing for risers. I will tie eye to eye here, not at the hook bend. This has been effective.

My tandems are never more than 24 inches long. This improves casting and presentation.

Contrary to popular belief, the three fly rig is very castable. I have been tinkering with level czech nymph leaders to aid sinking, but don't like how it handcuffs me to a short line presentation. I usually use a tapered leader and will add an indicator when necessary. If I can control the drift without one, I take it off. I usually end up using an indie in big runs and riffles.