

ORVIS®

FLY FISHING 101

**Freshwater Fly Selection and Knot
Tying Handout**

Entomology & Fly Selection

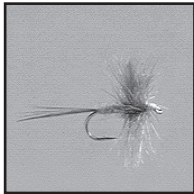
BASIC FLY TYPES

Dry	—	Floats
Wet	—	Sinks
Nymph	—	Sinks
Streamer	—	Sinks

THE TROUT'S DIET

- Aquatic insects:
Mayflies, Caddis flies,
Stone flies
- Terrestrial Insects:
Hoppers, Beetles, Ants
- Miscellaneous:
Forage fish,
Crustaceans

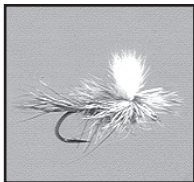
Dry Flies



Thorax Style Dry Fly
"Blue Winged Olive"

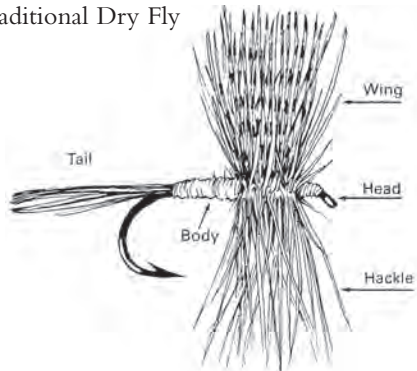


No Hackle Spinner
"Perfect Wing Spinner Mahogany"



Parachute Dry Fly
"Adams Parachute"

Traditional Dry Fly



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Tom Rosenbauer, Author. Lyons and Burford, Publisher.

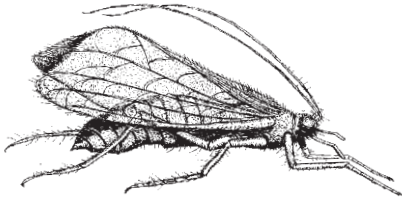


No-Hackle Dry Fly
"Sparkle Dun"

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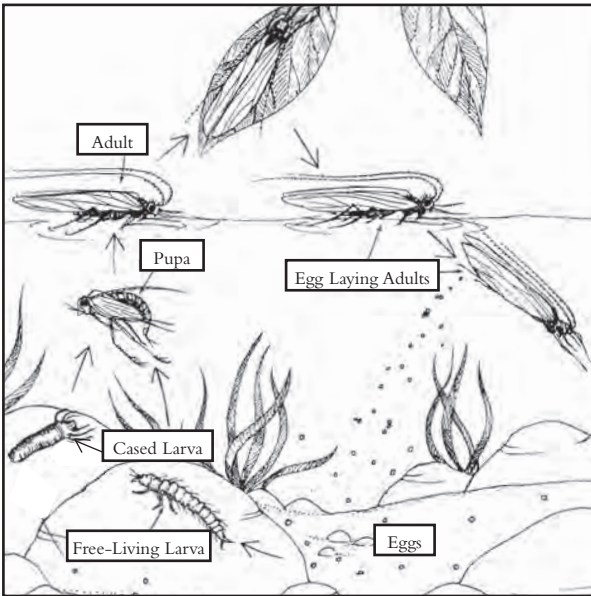
Caddis

Notes:



Adult Caddisfly

Sizes:



Life cycle of the Caddisfly

Wing Shape:

Colors:

Behavior:

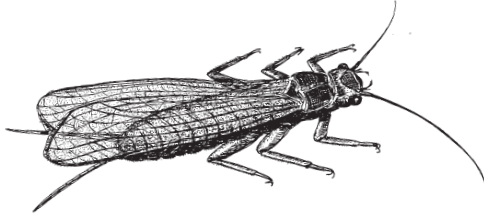


“Elk Wing Caddis”
The best adult caddis imitations!

Entomology & Fly Selection

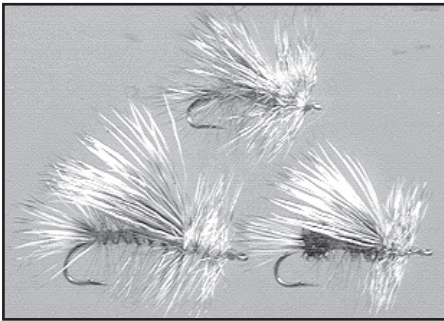
Stone flies

Notes:



Stonefly Adult

Sizes:



Stimulator

Wing Shape:

Colors:

Terrestrials

Mid-to-late summer daytime
food supplement.

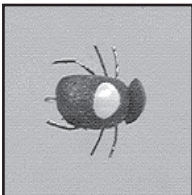
Behavior:



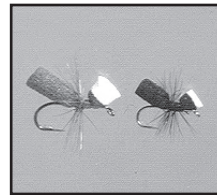
"Dave's Cricket"



"Dave's Hopper"



"Quick Sight Beetle"



"Quick Sight Ant"

Entomology & Fly Selection

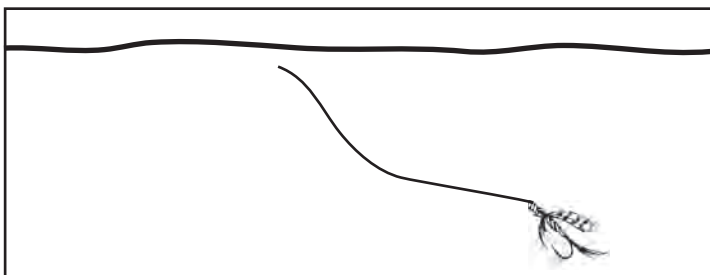
Wet Flies



“March Brown” and
“Gold Ribbed Hare’s Ear”



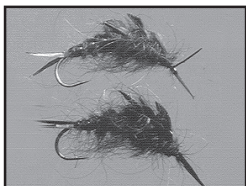
“Soft Hackle”



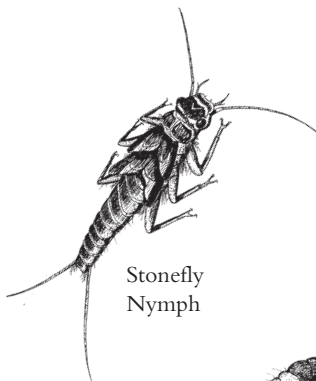
Wet fly dropper
system.

© Illustration courtesy of The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide,
Tom Rosenbauer, Author, Lyons and Burford, Publisher.

Nymphs



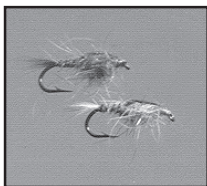
“Kauffman’s Stone Flies”



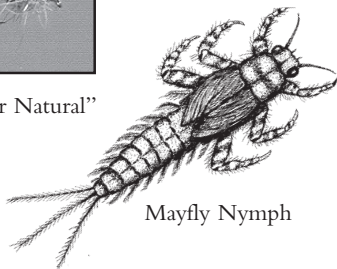
Stonefly
Nymph



“zebra midge” Bead Head



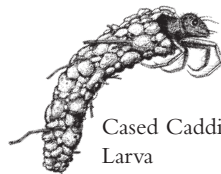
“Hare’s Ear Natural”



Mayfly Nymph

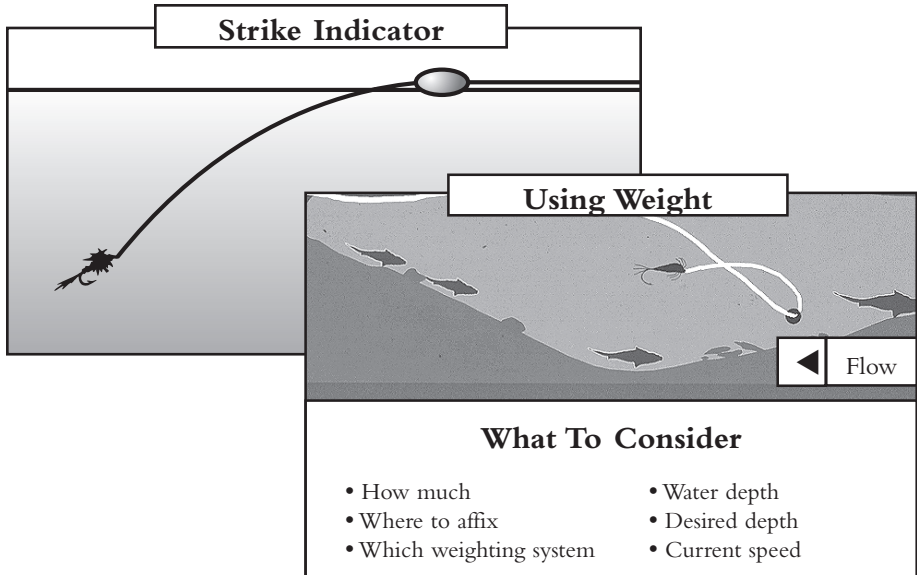


Free-Living Caddis Larva



Cased Caddis
Larva

Entomology & Fly Selection



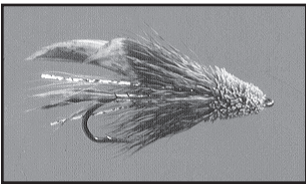
Streamers



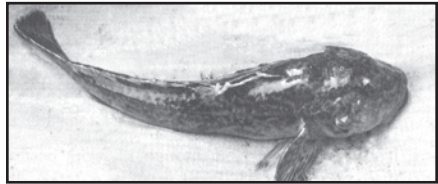
"Black Nose Dace"



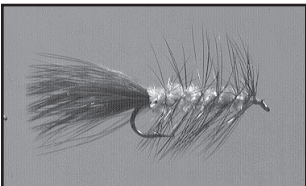
Black Nose Dace



"Muddler Minnow"



Sculpin



"Woolly Bugger"



Crayfish

Fishing Knots

Basic Advice on Tying Knots

It is important not only to select the right knot for a particular job but to tie it properly. Poorly tied knots will mean lost fish and aggravation. Here are a few basic steps to follow when tying all knots for fly fishing:

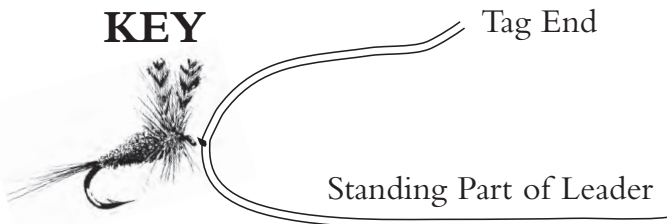
- Lubricate knots — Before you tighten a knot, lubricate it with saliva or by dipping it in the water. This will help the knot slide and seat properly. Lubrication also decreases excessive heat, which dramatically weakens monofilament. Heat is generated by the friction created when knots are drawn up tight.
- Seat the knot — Tighten knots with a steady, continuous pull. Make sure the knot is tight and secure. After it is tied, pull on the line and leader to make sure it holds. It is better to test it now than when a fish is on.
- Trim neatly — Use nippers to trim the material as close to the knot as possible without nicking or damaging the knot.

Care of Tippets

Tippets are the weakest point in your fishing system, so you want to pay particular attention to keeping them in good shape. Here are a few tips on avoiding damage to your tippets:

- Store tippet material away from ultraviolet rays of sun and fluorescent lights. Modern fluorocarbon (or PVDF) tippet materials are not prone to UV deterioration, but modern monofilament tippet materials, although much less prone to deterioration than material from some years ago, are somewhat vulnerable to ultraviolet rays. To be safe, store tippet material in a dark place.
- Keep tippets away from excessive heat. Don't leave tippet spools on dash of your car, for example. And don't use a flame to seal the end of a knot.
- Check leaders for abrasions and nicks. Monofilament will break where it has been damaged by abrasions or cuts. Don't take chances on losing a good fish with worn leaders or tippets.
- Discard old tippet material, as age can take its toll on monofilament. Test the outer layers of a spool of tippet material. If it breaks easily, is stiffer than normal, or is beginning to discolor, get rid of it.

Stretch new tippet material before using.



Fishing Knots

Tippet to Fly Size Chart

Tippet sizes for trout fishing are commonly referred to by their "X" designations, ranging from 0X (largest) to 8X (smallest). The X designation is based on the tippet diameter, as shown in the chart below. The X designation and diameter are constant, but the breaking strengths of various diameter lines vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. For example, one company's 5X tippet material may rate at 5.5-pound test, while another's is 4-pound test. Both, however, will be .006 inches in diameter.

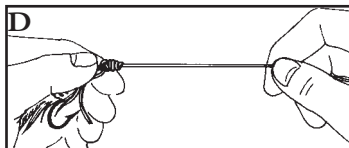
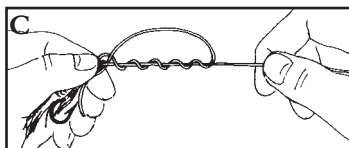
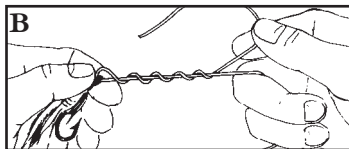
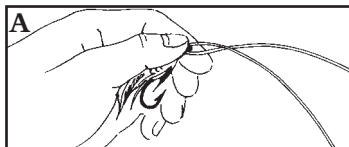
To cast a fly well and to have it behave naturally in or on the current, a fly should be matched to the appropriate diameter tippet. This chart also gives you suggestions on balancing tippet to fly. Stream conditions, the type of fish you are seeking, and the stiffness and breaking strength of the tippet material will also influence your choice.

"Fishing Knots" is adapted from the **Orvis Vest Pocket Guide to Leaders, Knots, & Tippets**, which can be purchased at Orvis Retail Stores or from the Orvis Catalog and the Animated Knot Series at orvis.com/knots

Tippet Size	Diameter	Balances with Fly Size
0X	.011"	2, 1/0
1X	.010"	4, 6, 8
2X	.009"	6, 8, 10
3X	.008"	10, 12, 14
4X	.007"	12, 14, 16
5X	.006"	14, 16, 18
6X	.005"	16, 18, 20, 22
7X	.004"	18, 20, 22, 24
8X	.003"	22, 24, 26, 28

Fly-To-Tippet Knots

Clinch Knot



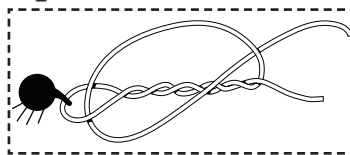
A Use to tie fly to end of tippet. Sometimes tied as an "improved" clinch knot by passing the tag end back through the loop created at the end of step number three. Our experience has shown that the improved clinch knot can be stronger only when it is tied perfectly. A well-tied regular clinch knot is stronger than a poorly tied improved clinch.

B Hold fly in left hand, and with right hand wind the end of the leader around standing part of leader five times, keeping a small loop immediately adjacent to hook eye open. This loop is easy to keep open if you pinch it between thumb and forefinger of left hand.

C Bring tag end of leader back through loop next to the hook eye and grasp with thumb and forefinger of left hand.

D Lubricate and tighten by pulling the standing part of leader and the fly in opposite directions. Do not pull on the tag end of the leader – merely hold it alongside the fly. Trim tag end close to knot.

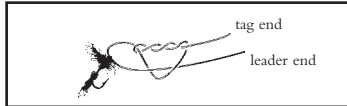
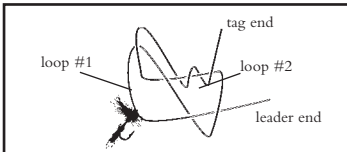
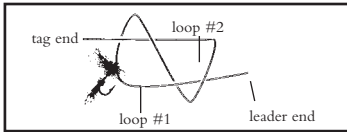
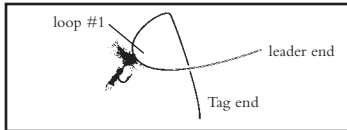
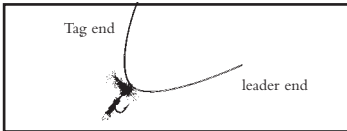
Improved Clinch Knot



After going through the loop next to the hook, pass the tag end through the big loop between the twists and the tag.

Fishing Knots

Orvis Knot by Larry Becker



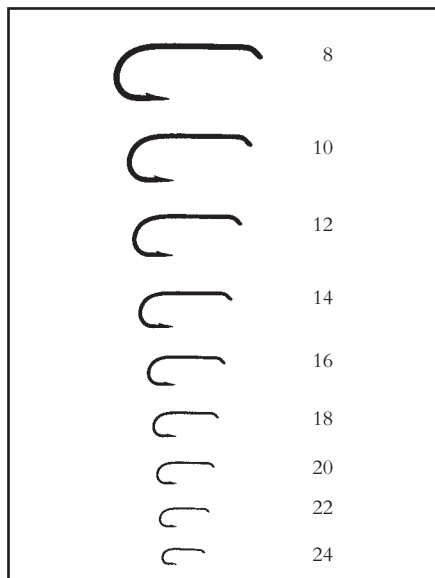
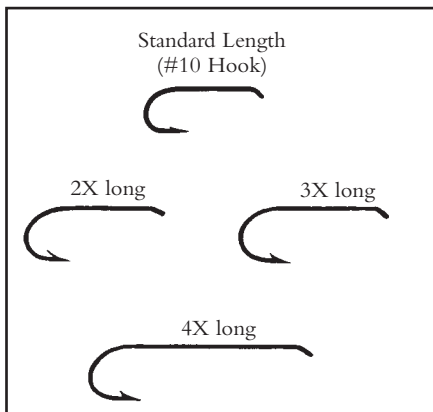
Use to tie tippet to fly. Creates a knot close to 100% in strength.

Thread the fly line through the eye and then form a loop by bringing the tag end down behind the leader, forming loop #1.

Bring the tag end up and to the right behind itself and through loop #1, forming loop #2. Rotate the tag end to the left and wrap twice through loop #2, going behind each time.

Pull the fly with your right hand and the leader with your left until the knot tightens down slightly. Let go of the tag end, moisten the knot, and cinch it tight. Trim tag end.

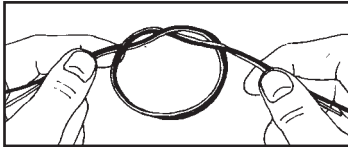
Hook Size Chart



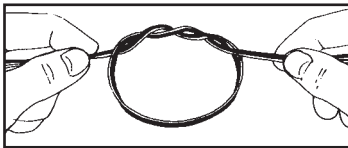
Fishing Knots

Adding Tippet to Leader

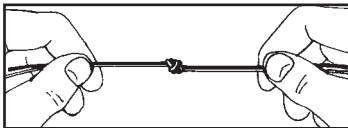
Surgeon's Knot



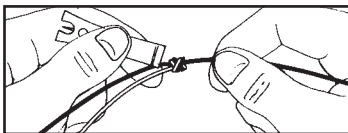
Use to tie tippet to end of leader or for the finer sections of tapered leaders. Quicker and stronger than Barrel Knot. Better than the Barrel Knot for joining pieces of leader material with diameters that differ by more than .003".



Clip off section of tippet material and lay next to the end of leader with two strands overlapping by 4" to 6". Tie an overhand knot in this doubled section by forming a loop and bringing end of leader and entire end of tippet through the loop together. Keep loop open.



Double the overhand knot by bringing the same double strand through the loop once more.

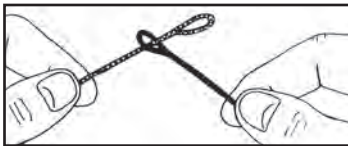


Lubricate and tighten by holding all four ends and pulling steadily.

Trim tag ends close to knot.

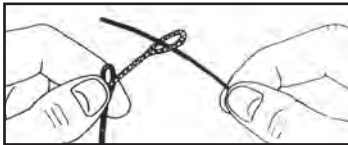
Connect Leader to Fly Line

Loop-to-Loop Connection



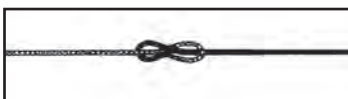
Use to connect braided leader butt to fly line with either permanent monofilament loop or braided loop connector; or to connect smaller end of braided leader butt to monofilament leader tippet with loop in butt end.

There is a right way and a wrong way to connect loops. Below we describe the method for attaching the fly line loop to the leader butt loop; the same technique applies to attaching the braided leader butt to the monofilament leader tippet.



Pass the end of the fly line loop through the larger end of the leader butt loop.

Then pass the small end of the leader (tippet) through the fly line loop.



Tighten by pulling in opposite directions. You can disconnect the loops by pushing them toward each other and reversing the process. The correct loop-to-loop connection looks like a square knot when complete.