

Nymphing Leader Manifesto

Welcome to our Nymphing Leader Manifesto, where we aim to give you all the information you need to give you a jump start when targeting Trout and/or Grayling in rivers this season. Our manifesto starts with the basics of leader material choice and knots to use, then continues to the more detailed leader configurations required for fishing different types of rivers.

Leader Materials

Just like fly lines, leader material choice is a Manifesto in itself, here are a few pointers to get you started:

Tippet selection is a very personal choice, use whichever material you have confidence in, this is the weak point in any setup, confidence in knot strength is everything!

- **Nylon/Copolymer:** Generally more cost effective and slightly thicker than Fluorocarbon with a much better tolerance to imperfect knots. A favourite of the Grayling angler is Maxima Chameleon for its abrasion resistance and colour when fishing in Winter.
- **Fluorocarbon:** Denser than water so will sink easier and faster than nylon, great when covering very spooky fish on crystal clear water as it does not transmit any light through the length of the tippet.

The X system marked on spools of tippet determines the diameter of the tippet (the bigger the X number, the thinner the tippet). When designing Grayling leaders, you generally do not need them to turn over, so it's important to build in 'weak points' i.e. knots, for when you will inevitably get snagged on the riverbed and have to pull for a break!

Tippet Size	Diameter
3X	0.20mm or .008"
4X	0.18mm or .007"
5X	0.16mm or .006"
6X	0.12mm or .005"
7X	0.10mm or .004"
8X	0.08mm or .003"

Knots

The 3-Turn Water Knot:

Use this knot for joining two pieces of tippet together, this is the knot you should use to join each section of your leader together. The best way to learn this knot is to follow an online tutorial: www.animatedknots.com, I've included the steps below:

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



Step 4:



The Clinch Knot:

The Clinch knot is a great knot for tying on nymphs to short droppers, as it can be tied with very little tippet. I use this knot to tie on all of my nymphs as it's very secure and quick to tie. The best way to learn this knot is to follow an online tutorial: www.animatedknots.com, I've included the steps below:

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



Step 4:



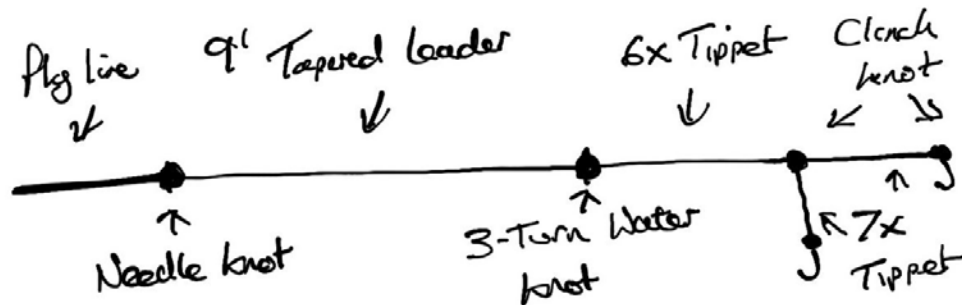
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Grayling Leader Designs

In this section we will give you some leader designs for different nymphing leaders for Grayling. Using all of the above information you can easily tie your own leaders, using the below images as a guide - happy tying:

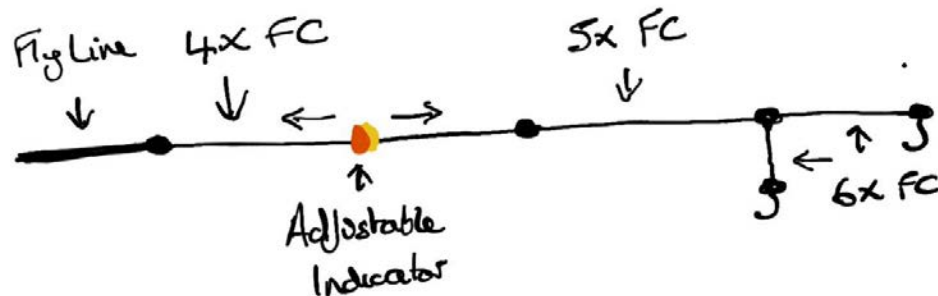
Standard Nymphing Leader

This is the standard leader for nymphing in any type of water. It incorporates lighter tippet, both 6X and 7X - this builds a weak point at the knots where the dropper & flies are tied. With this leader being built using a tapered leader, if the nymphs are light it can be cast, just as you would a dry fly:



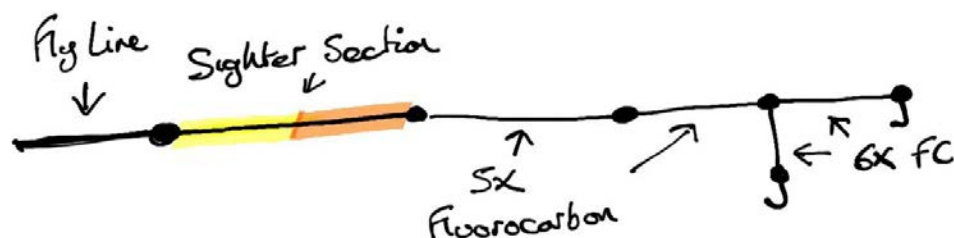
Indicator Leader

The Indicator leader is used when fishing deeper water and heavier nymphs. The indicator used can take many different forms - the 'putty', 'curly spring' or wool style indicators are the most common - I tend to prefer the 'putty' style ones as they can be adjusted for both depth and to support the weight of your nymph:



Euro/Tight-Line Leader

This style of 'Euro' or Tight Line leader has a long sighter section of bi-coloured mono built in. This allows you to detect even the smallest of movements in the leader when the line is tight. A Top Tip when building this style of leader is to leave the tag ends of your knots in the sighter section about an inch long - this stops the leader from falling back through the rod rings when the rod is held high!

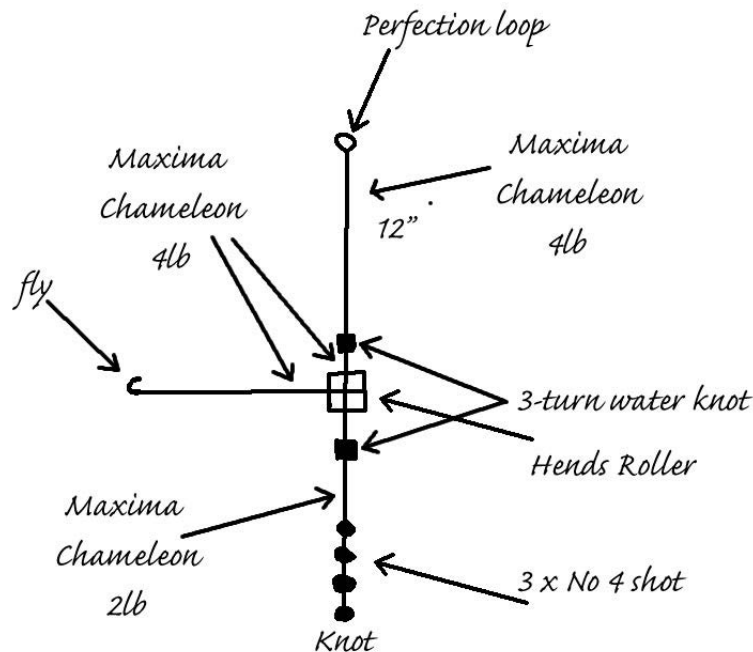


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Grayling Leader Designs cont ...

The P-Rig

Those of you from a coarse or sea fishing background may notice the inspiration behind this novel nymphing setup - the Paternoster. This is a great rig to use when fishing on rivers where there are lots of rocks on the riverbed, as it presents the nymph just above the riverbed and the shot on the bottom can be adjusted for flow - it also can be sacrificial when you get snagged.



It can be quite tricky to tie the dropper to the Hends Roller, so I tie on the dropper to the roller before I build the whole rig (Top Tip - slip the roller over a pin and tie on the dropper, this keeps it from slipping out of your hands). I tie these rigs up at home before venturing out and then store them on a rig keeper.

Casting A Nymphing Rig

I always find it very difficult to detect takes when fishing a single nymph at longer ranges (which is why I seldom do it), but I always fish a single nymph at short range using a tight-line method. To fish this you need to use the downstream water load cast, it's an easy way to send your flies back upstream for another drift without making a back cast.

- Cast your rig out as normal
- At the end of the run, let your nymph drift all the way past you so it hangs in the current (and the fly line and leader tensions up).
- In one smooth motion, lift your rod up and use the built-in tension to flip your nymph back upstream.

This simple cast is really efficient (especially in competitions) and ideally suited for short-line nymphing techniques. With the downstream water load, your flies spend more time in the water.

Tight-line nymphing is one of the best methods for Grayling. Here's how it's done:

- Cast your nymph upstream; then
- As the nymph comes back towards you keeping the rod tip just ahead of the nymph, lead it back towards you keeping the line tight (this where you will detect your takes either by feel or by watching your in-line indicator for any abnormal movement).
- Stop the rod tip just in front of you and let the flies drift downstream, feeling for takes all the time.
- As the nymph drifts past you and downstream, it will start to rise in the water column, this is where lots of Grayling will be caught (known as the induced take).
- Then use the downstream water load cast to make your next cast and repeat the process.