

Happy Holidays

from Wambolt & Associates



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Fly of the Month • December 2019



I still remember the first time I saw someone tie on a dry fly with a nymph drop-per hanging off the curve of the hook - I thought my head was going to explode! I was struck by the brilliance of being able to cover and fish multiple layers of the water column simultaneously with one multi-fly rig or to even cover multiple stages of a hatch all on one line (using an adult-dry fly on top, a wet emerger fished pattern fished mid column, and a nymph pattern fished deep off the end of the line). For many, this is the pinnacle of complex fishing rigs, but I suggest that we can do better, and with one slight alteration and going 'heads up' (or tying on our droppers eye-to-eye) we can make our dropper rigs exponentially more deadly and vastly improve our catch rate.

Continue reading inside...



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FLY OF THE MONTH • DARTH BAETIS • Size 22

The “force is strong” with the Darth Baetis pattern and so is its ability to stick trout! Tied to overpower the reserve of rebellious tailwater trout, the slender profile and subtle flash of this fly makes it a universal killer. If you are looking to conquer the trout in river or lake you’ll want the Darth Baetis on your side and in your fly box.



Dry/Wet: Wet | **Fly Category:** Generalist Pattern | **Family:** Mayflies
Species: Blue Winged Olive, and Trico Mayflies | **Life Stage:** Nymph, Emerger

How to Tie 🪗 Fish a Heads-Up (Eye-to-Eye) Fly Fishing Rig

By Peter Stitcher - Ascent Fly Fishing


The benefits of attaching the tippet for dropper flies to the eye of the previous hook instead of the back of the hook are two-fold: 1 - Our flies gain a more realistic profile in the water column, and 2 - Hooks remain deeply set and bring more fish to hand.

Adult aquatic insects sit high on top of the water held aloft by their legs, and emerging insects are oriented vertically in the water column as they frantically swim towards the surface in their effort to hatch. No rig better matches these natural orientations than the Heads-Up or Eye-to-Eye rig. Tying droppers off of the eye of a dry fly will create a longer, higher floating dry fly and a more realistic and tantalizing emerger trailing beneath it.

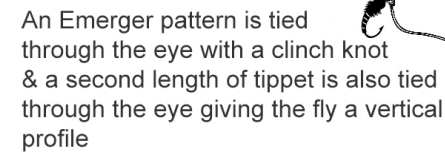
The chief benefit of the Heads-Up or Eye-to-Eye rig is its sticking power and ability to hold onto fish until they are safely secured in your net. When droppers are tied in line, eye to hook bend, each subsequent fly has the ability to snag on the bottom of the river or a stick and apply a direct and perfectly angled pressure to dislodge the upstream hook from the mouth of the trout. Identical to the pressure applied to the curve of the hook with one’s forceps when releasing a fish, any pressure applied along a line of flies rigged eye to hook bend will work to pull the upstream flies from the mouth of the trout. When rigging flies eye to eye EVERY PRESSURE, whether from the bend of our rods or from a momentary snag along the bed of the river, will work to more deeply set and secure the hook into the lip of the trout.

The next time you are getting ready to tie up your Dry-Dropper or Nymphing Rig, tie your flies on eye-to-eye get ready for an awesome day on the water and more fish in your net!

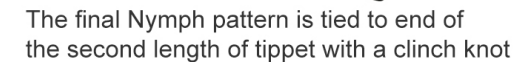
How to Tie a *Heads-Up* or *Eye-to-Eye* Dry-Dropper Fly Fishing Rig



The Dropper is tied off the eye of the dry fly with a clinch knot



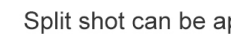
An Emerger pattern is tied through the eye with a clinch knot & a second length of tippet is also tied through the eye giving the fly a vertical profile



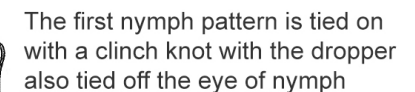
The final Nymph pattern is tied to end of the second length of tippet with a clinch knot

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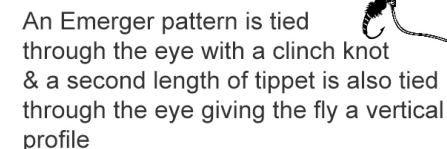
How to Tie a *Heads-Up* or *Eye-to-Eye* Nymphing Fly Fishing Rig



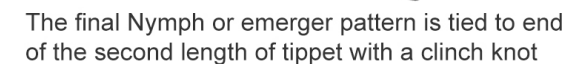
Split shot can be applied to the line 12" - 18" above the first fly



The first nymph pattern is tied on with a clinch knot with the dropper also tied off the eye of nymph



An Emerger pattern is tied through the eye with a clinch knot & a second length of tippet is also tied through the eye giving the fly a vertical profile



The final Nymph or emerger pattern is tied to end of the second length of tippet with a clinch knot

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