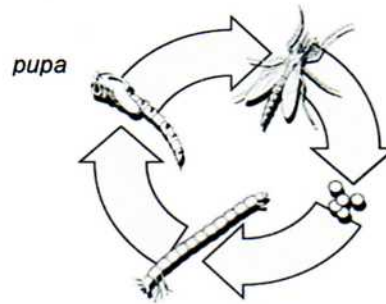


## Knots and Rigging: Still-water Nymfing

By: Tod Suttle

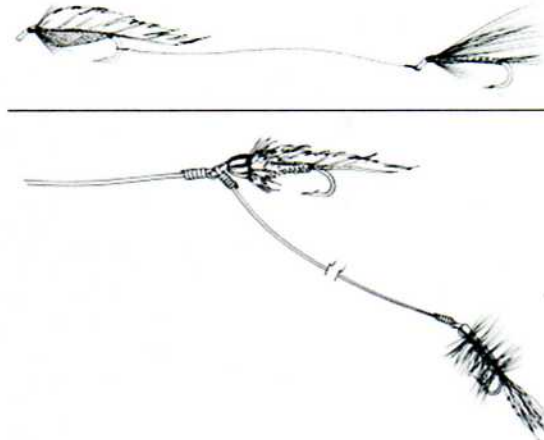
Crowley Lake is a destination that most of us make at least one trip to each season. Now that we are in the offseason and the lake is closed for winter, it seems appropriate that we fill our fly boxes with midges and streamers in preparation for the lake opening in spring. Still water nymfing is a technique that has gained immense amounts of popularity over the last decade. To practice this technique, the angler suspends a small midge pattern a few inches off of the lake bottom; this technique is intended to imitate a midge pupa hatching from the muck and rising to the surface to find a willing partner to mate.



Courtesy of [www.thealienbrothers.com](http://www.thealienbrothers.com)

When I first tried this technique, my initial thoughts were that it was the most boring form of fly-fishing ever created. I felt like the guy in the lawn chair drinking a Budweiser and waiting for a fish to eat my worm and dunk my bobber. After learning a few helpful tips and establishing some techniques that I felt confident in, I must say that I enjoy still water nymfing as much as walking along a wild trout stream

One of the techniques that will help increase your chances is fishing a multiple fly rig. There are several thoughts on the best technique for tying tandem flies on your tippet and I will highlight two of them. The first technique involves tying your first fly to your tippet with your standard improved clinch knot and then tying a piece of tippet (12"-18") to the bend of that hook (also with the improved clinch knot). Next, you simply tie your second fly to the end of that piece of tippet material (once again with the improved clinch knot).



[http://www.midcurrent.com/images/meck\\_tandemflies\\_4.gif](http://www.midcurrent.com/images/meck_tandemflies_4.gif)

The second technique involves tying your piece of tippet (12"-18") through the eye of the hook of the top fly and then adding your second fly below that. I prefer this technique because it allows your top fly to sit in a more natural position (perpendicular to the lake bottom).

The last factor to insure your success is to get your flies at the proper depth. The standard technique is to clip your forceps onto the bottom fly and lower it into the water until you feel it touch the bottom. Then lift your fly up the desired amount (usually 3" – 18") and attach your indicator. I prefer using a yarn indicator like the Sungicator (pictured), but the foam and cork models work as well. Don't let your fly sit in one place too long; watch your indicator closely and if you notice the smallest movement, lift the rod. If you can't wait for Crowley Lake to open, give Laguna Niguel Regional Park a try. They are stocking fish every two weeks and even though you have to pay a fee, it is a close drive and you can fish from your tube. If things seem to be slow, set your rod down and reach for a sandwich; that usually guarantees a bite.

