

OSPREY FLY BOX

MINIMALIST MICRO LEECH (MML)

contributed by

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When first arriving at a lake have a look around and see what is happening. Like Peter Chatt says “look in the water see what minute creatures are working the reeds. Look at what insects are flying in the air over the lake. Are the Swallows circulating in a particular area of the lake?” If it appears to be all quiet and you have no clues as to what to use, that is when I dive into my kit for the Micro Leech!

This can often be my first fly to try. Once a fish is caught, it’s stomach can be pumped to identify what the “repas du jour” is.

I first heard about micro leeches from either Dave Wettlaufer or Dave Steele, both big influencers on my fishing acumen. After trying various leech patterns, I found this one to be the best. This is one of the those flies were less is more. Ah, yes, the Minimalist Micro Leech (MML). The idea is to keep them small and minimal under 25 mm. If they get too big they begin to look like Tadpoles and that is a different story. The theory is that as the MML moves through the water it will become linear but when you stop retrieving, it will ball up like a real leech does.

Small leeches of 15 to 20mm are a favourite trout food. These small leeches tend to stay close to the weeds.



They are seldom found free floating in the middle of the lake. I use a full sink or sinking tip line to get down lower in the water column. Then strip back in a jerking motion. I will also troll my Micro Leech when I'm in my rowing canoe. The oars act as extensions of my arms. Thus a short jerk on the oars then a long pause mimicking the movement of the leech through the water.

Leeches tend to avoid the bright sunny days so they are best fished at the beginning or end of the season. Late in the day and into the evenings are also good times to fish your MML all through the seasons. Keep it close to the weeds and the bottom. Look for where the leeches are looking for their dinner and the trout are looking for them.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 9671 Nymph Hook
Size #10 to #12
- Thread:** Uni 6/0 Black
- Tail:** Black Rabbit Fur
- Body:** Black/Red or Bloody Leech Simi Seal Dubbing
- Collar:** Black Rabbit Fur (*optional Red Angel Hair*)
- Head:** Black Thread

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



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1. Take a Mustad size 12 wet nymph hook. Crimp the barb. Starting at the eye, wind black thread to the back of the hook.

2. Then tie on black Bunny fur to form a tail folding over so all of the fur forms about a shank length tail.

3. Create a dubbing loop just forward of the tail, lock it off and wind the thread forward to the eye of the hook.

4. Insert a small amount of Black/Red or Bloody Leech Simi Seal dubbing along the length of the loop. The dubbing should be sparse. After spinning it should radiate out from the loop.

5. Then wrap the loop around hook to form the body working your way to the eye. All the time using your fingers to stroke the dubbing to the rear.

6. Take more Black Rabbit fur and tie on just behind the eye to enhance the body. A little Red Angel Hair flash can be added at this time as an option. Fold back excess fur and red flash. Whip finish and seal with head cement. Trim as necessary.



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Tight Lines & Good Luck!