

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



Sometimes you have to try different approaches to catch fish. One of my often successful alternatives during warm summer days, when the fish move to deeper waters, is to suspend a balanced leech under an indicator. A regular leech pattern hangs in a lifeless looking manner. But the unique nature of a balanced leech makes the fly look more lifelike and results in more takes.

Leeches are a very sizeable portion of a trout's diet throughout most of the season. They present themselves in an undulating swimming motion near weedbeds and other subsurface locations, often pausing this motion for extended periods. Opportunistic trout prey willingly on this food source. An angler can easily imitate this undulating motion by taking short strips of a balanced leech pattern under an indicator, with pauses in between strips. Stopping the movement periodically is often when a trout takes. Experiment with depth and speed variation in your retrieve to find out what the trout want on a particular day. If the wind is creating nice ripples on the water, the up and down motion from the indicator also creates a perfect swimming motion. Leeches account for some of the larger fish I land each year!



The Author with a nice Brown Trout from Wickiup Reservoir on a Cinnamon Leech pattern.

Balanced Cinnamon Leech - Materials List:

- Hook:** Mustad 32833BLN Jig Hook, Size 10 or similar
Thread: Tobacco Brown, 70 Denier
Tail: Marabou in Dark Brown or Rust and
UV Krystal Flash Fibers in Root Beer or Peacock
Body: Euroseal Dubbing Blend of Dark Olive, Brown, Rust and Canadian
Leech (25% of Each)
Head: Size 7/64 or 1/8 Bead Placed on a Straight Pin

Experiment with this pattern when the fish demand you work a little deeper during warm summer days. It is an excellent pattern to fish over structure, such as on the “Hump” at East Lake. Try different color variations and sizes with this pattern. Olive, tan, brown and black all produce fish. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Balanced Cinnamon Leech pattern, please don’t hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/e4HBYZR-Vj4>