

## Black and Red Balanced Leech

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*Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner*

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YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/JIdr0ztMMkQ>

This month's Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner features a Black and Red Balanced Leech. This is a pattern that every stillwater angler should keep in the fly box. It is a pattern that produces when other flies may not. I like to fish this pattern suspended under a strike indicator. If there is wind and ripples on the water, the indicator imparts perfect leech undulating movements on the fly. If there is no wind, take short or medium strips to impart your own action on the fly. The indicator will lift the fly and pauses will allow it to flutter down till it reaches the depth you set on the indicator.

Earlier this month I was fishing a remote flat out on Crane Prairie. We had a tough morning, only putting a fish or two into the net in some of our favorite spots. We began exploring and experimenting trying to figure out the magic combination. As we ran the trolling motor across a flat, we started seeing fish. We pulled up and anchored in about 6 to 8' of water. Out came my "ace in the hole" pattern, the Black and Red Balanced Leech. The fish we had seen were working well above the bottom, so I suspended the fly at about 4' deep under a strike indicator. The first cast produced a nice 17" rainbow, which was only the beginning of a wonderful afternoon catching fish after fish on this pattern. This fly pattern had, once again, shown it was worthy of a front-and-center place in my fly box.

In concluding this month's column, we are getting to the time of year where warmer weather requires special handling in playing and releasing fish. During our recent outing on Crane Prairie, the water surface temperature was 66 degrees. A little warmer can be lethal to some trout after a hard-fought battle. So do the fish a favor, fish barbless, fight them quick and take care on the release. I am using 3X tippet so I can play a fish quickly to the net. If conditions get particularly warm, please fish early and late, and leave the middle part of the day alone. Lastly, the larger the fish, the longer it takes for them to recover. Give them plenty of rest and recovery in the water in your net, or in a basket in the water to help the fish survive.

Tie a few of the Black and Red Balanced Leech for your own fly box and a try this pattern on your next stillwater adventure.

### **Black and Red Balanced Leech Materials List:**

<b>Hook:</b>	Firehole 516, Size 10 - 14
<b>Thread:</b>	UTC 140 Denier Ultra - Black
<b>Bead:</b>	Firehole 3/32" Matte Black Tungsten
<b>Peg:</b>	Sewing Pin
<b>Tail:</b>	Black Marabou
<b>Body Dubbing:</b>	Bruiser Blend, Jr. – Black/red

Tying instructions and steps are 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/JIdr0ztMMkQ>. Give the Black and Red Balanced Leech a try next time you are out fishing a favorite stillwater. If you have questions or would like additional information about this pattern, please 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](mailto:philfischer@sbcglobal.net).