

# The Essential Fly Guide to Czech Nymph Fly Fishing

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## What is Czech Nymphing?

Like many fishing techniques, the origins of the [Czech nymphing](#) technique are uncertain but it is thought to have been used first in the 1970s. It may even have been introduced from neighbouring Poland. Because it is such a fast and effective technique, it has been put to good use by competition anglers. It was introduced to the UK in the 1990 World Championships. The Czech team beat the UK International teams on the Welsh River Dee. The Czech's caught fish in numbers from places that were thought impossibly fast or deep previously. This sent shockwaves through the world of competition angling. The technique is today considered to be pretty much a standard - an essential part of every fly fisherman's armoury. [Czech nymphs](#) are heavier flies fished deeper than traditional fly fishing flies.

The [Czech nymphing](#) style of is a high speed, close range and deadly technique for catching fish in the right type of water. From cast to re-cast may take as little as 5 seconds!

To use the technique successfully you want a fast, turbulent water: typically fast flowing rivers and streams rushing down a mountain side or off moorland. Everything is done to get the flies (three on a cast) down deep as quickly as possible. This is why [Czech nymphs fishing flies](#) tend to have very smooth profiles with very little hackle which might delay the sink speed, as well as being heavily leaded. There is no casting - as we know it normally - involved as only about three feet of line is extended beyond the top rod ring. Only the leader is in the water so that you can keep close contact with the flies and any bite.

Grayling are stupid fish! Avoid spooking wherever possible with smooth movements and non spooking equipment and clothing. However as grayling will feed on matter disturbed by walking through the water and have even been known to nibble at waders once they start feeding!

## Czech Nymphing Tackle

- For Czech nymphing you want 1 9' 6" to 10' for from #3 to #5 weight. An ideal rod wants to be non reflective to avoid spooking fish.
  - #3 weight is sufficient, you are not looking at casting with this technique so if purchasing a dedicated rod this is ideal in medium soft action.
  - A #5 weight rod of 10' is great for both dry fly fishing and for Czech nymphing and therefore ideal multi-purpose rods for rivers and streams.
- #3 to #5 Reel, again non reflective to avoid spooking
- Leader, tapered leaders are not necessary as traditional casting is not required. We'd suggest using Stroft ABR or Stroft GTM at a maximum of 0.12mm diameter. At 0.12mm diameter the Stroft is virtually invisible to fish.
- Bite Indicators are useful with this technique, you can use a variety of indicators from [Thingamabobbers](#) for new fishermen to [coloured braided loops](#) connecting the fly line to the leader which are more professional way to identify bites.

## Czech Nymphing Flies

The heaviest [czech nymph](#) goes in the middle with a lighter fly on both the point and the top dropper. This helps get the flies down and ensures that they swim correctly. When you start fishing, do make sure that every time you hook the bottom that you check your flies:



Check that the hook still has a point as well as clearing away any weed. If you find that you are catching the bottom too frequently, change your flies - certainly the heaviest - to lighter ones. As you will have been handling the leader a lot while making it up, you must degrease it well before starting fishing so that it will sink quickly.

When fishing you will watch the indicator carefully, lift rapidly into any unusual movement of the indicator.



## Making The Czech Nymphing Leader

Because no traditional casting is involved, there is no need for a tapered leader. We'd recommend the use of [Stroft](#), preferably ABR which has very little glint.

The leader is made out of a length of mono of a suitable breaking strain, based on size of fish likely to be caught and the character of the river bottom. You must use mono that is strong enough not to break when you hook the bottom or a rock which you are likely to frequently.



To make-up a leader, start at the bottom end. You will need a leader with two droppers that are 20 inches apart. Take your first length of mono and attach another length to it using a Surgeon's knot. The dropper must be on the main leg and pointing downwards trim the dropper to about four inches. Repeat and then add the next length of monofilament to be tied on. This is the last one and this connects the leader to the end of the fly line, using a [coloured braided loops](#).

When making up your first leader it will pay to make this last section extra long. The overall length of the leader should be a little less than the length of your rod. Ideally when you catch a fish you can play it, then you can raise your rod and take hold of the fish easily without having to alter the length of line beyond the top of the rod. You can adjust the length of the leader by shortening the top length of the leader to get it to the correct length.

## Czech Nymphing Tactics

There is ABSOLUTELY NO CASTING with the Czech nymphing technique.

The first thing to do is to fish your way into the water. Don't just get in and start wading as this is guaranteed to frighten away fish near the bank and they could be virtually under your feet. Fish all the water that you can reach from the bank. It is important to keep the three



flies separated when casting. Casts are more of a flick than cast. At the end of the cast lift the leader and flies out of the water quickly and simply describe an upstream arc with the end of your rod. Instantly your flies land in the water, the end of a line for the slightest movement, hesitation, dip or check that indicates a take. Raise the rod at the slightest of indications of a fish. If there is nothing there, simply flick the flies back into the water again. Make sure that you always lead the flies downstream with the rod tip. After each 2 casts step forward and re-cast. Once you reach the far bank turn move 2 steps downstream and repeat.

Because you can cast and fish a stretch of water so quickly, you can search every likely lie for fish. Move slowly and carefully because as you are using such a short line, you will be catching fish extremely close to you. If your first choice of flies is catching fish, there is no need to change them. But if you are not catching fish, try a swapping flies. If you are going to fish a shallower stretch of water, it makes sense to change to lighter flies which won't sink so deep and will be less likely to catch the bottom.

## The Essential Fly

The Essential Fly is a premium manufacturer and supplier of [fly fishing flies](#) including [trout flies](#), [salmon flies](#) and specialist flies including [pike flies](#) and [saltwater flies](#).

Our tackle includes own brand and fly brands including [Cortland Fly Lines](#), [Scientific Anglers fly lines](#), [Wychwood Fly Rods](#) and [fly fishing accessories](#).



We stock a large range of [fly tying materials](#), including own brand and top manufacturers including [Semperfli](#), [Veniard](#), Uni, [Stonefly](#) & Tiemco.

We offer full replacement guarantee in event of faulty manufacturing. We supply our products world-wide by mail order and currently supply to over 50 countries.

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