



Woofa Buzzer

Hook: Size 12
Thread: Black
Body: Black Flexi-Floss
Thorax: Pink flash tinsel



Tanski Cat

Hook: Size 8
Thread: White
Tail: White marabou
Rib: Flat pearl tinsel
Body: Chartreuse chenille
Wing: White marabou with pearl flash
Eyes: Chain eyes

could indicate a take on one of the other flies. This particular take was quite obvious but several more soon follow where I can see the Egg but there are very subtle movements, which lead to some cracking fish being landed.

As with any small water, it is important to keep on the move. This swim soon slows down due to my constant casting as well as the commotion caused by these cracking big fish.

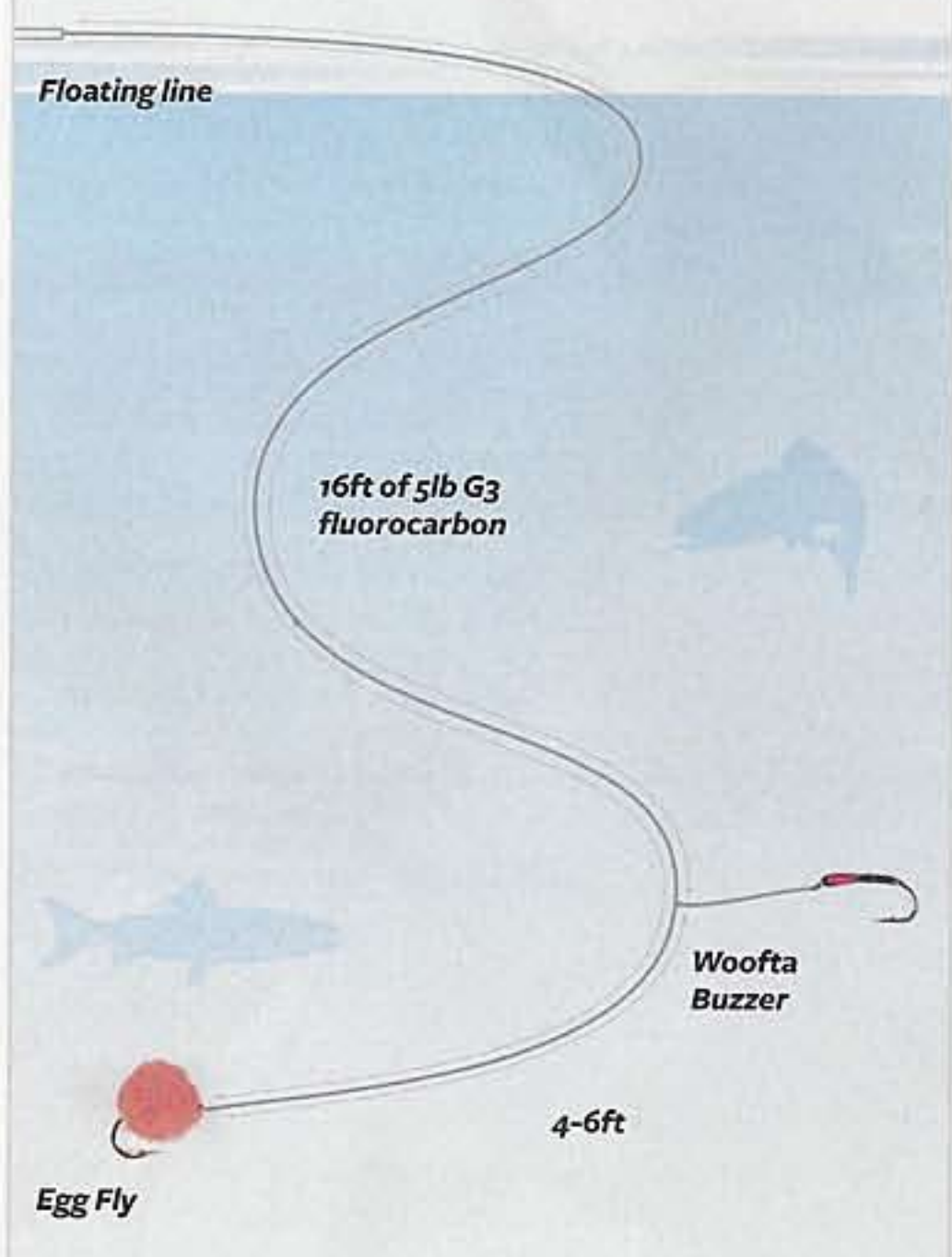
I want to do some stalking because this is the technique that Lechlade has made its own.

I use the steep bank to my advantage - the covering trees camouflage my movements. Standing like a heron with Buzzer in hand I wait for an unsuspecting fish to come by. I've removed the Egg in favour of a very subtle approach with two size 12 Buzzers. The Woofa Buzzer remains on the dropper and I have an easy to spot Red Butt Crisp Buzzer with bright orange cheeks on point. A beautiful brown swims within range and I flick the Buzzers three or four yards ahead of it to allow the flies to sink across its path.

Unfortunately they don't sink fast enough and the brownie doesn't

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Iain's two-fly stalking set-up for Lechlade



Iain's eight-pounder from Lechlade.

ascend through the layers to intercept the flies. When stalking, you may only get a few seconds for the nymph to sink down to the fish as it swims past so ensure you use a heavily weighted fly if stalking is your chosen tactic.

I spot a fish cruising only a few feet down, which just can't resist the Black Crisp Buzzer and another soon follows on the Woofa Buzzer. But with less fish now cruising by and things seemingly slowing down, it's time for a change.

I hear a couple of anglers talking and they have caught steadily on white and green lures. I try a Tanski Cat's Whisker fished slowly on a floating line with no joy but I notice they're pulling the lures.

Keen to keep disturbance to a minimum I put my Cat's Whisker on a clear intermediate line. I choose a clear intermediate as I've watched fish become very spooked by coloured intermediates, which can put them off their feed.

For a short 10-15 minutes it is almost an offer a chuck as if someone has flicked a switch on! When things slow up it's worth changing tactics to pulling a lure just to reinvigorate them and appeal to their natural inbuilt curiosity to chase. I land two more monstrous rainbows and miss as many - having several more follows in a 15-minute spell. As predicted, things slow up again and it's time to change.

The Neon Damsel has to be one of the most successful small water flies I've ever used and the fish start to come again. It's vital to keep on the move but I receive plenty of follows in this swim but the fish are not actually getting hold of the fly. The interest is there so it's down to me to turn that interest into a take and the Damsel is the answer.

The temperature starts to fall and as quickly as the fish came on they switch off again. Suddenly they won't chase and they certainly aren't taking my flies despite several changes. It's time to pack up after what has been a very successful day's fishing.



Blue Flash Damsel

Hook: To suit
Thread: Olive
Tail: Olive marabou
Rib: Fine silver wire
Body: Blue tinsel
Hackle: Olive hen hackle
Head: 3mm gold bead



Crisp Packet Buzzer

Hook: Size 12
Thread: Black
Rib: Silver wire or stripped peacock quill
Body: Black Flexi-Floss
Thorax: Built up Flexi-Floss



Egg Fly

Hook: Size 12 Grub
Body: Egg yarn
Colour: Permanent marker pen for colour spot



Lechlade factfile

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DESCRIPTION Two lakes, 9-acre Lechlade and 22-acre Bushyleaze lying in beautiful Cotswold countryside near the headwaters of the River Thames. 250 yards of the River Leach available for wild brown trout fishing.
STOCK Double-figure rainbows and browns to 30lb stocked in Lechlade and similar fish but more 4-6lb trout in Bushy.
PRICES Lechlade: Full day, 4 fish, £60 with other ticket options. Bushy: Full day, 6 fish, £37.50 with other ticket options.
FACILITIES Extensive shop, car parking, corporate days, tuition, conference/catering, tackle for hire, Wheelyboat.