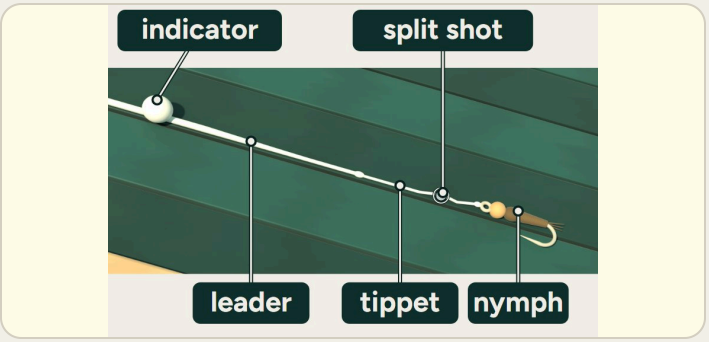
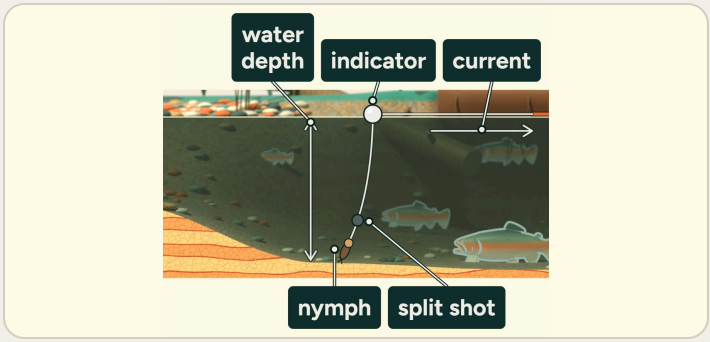
INDICATOR NYMPHING, RIGGED AND FISHED

Put a small float called an indicator on your leader, pinch split shot onto the tippet, and tie a nymph to the end. Set the indicator so the nymph drifts near the bottom, cast upstream, mend so the indicator floats at the speed of the current, and set the hook when it stops, dips or goes under.



The rig in order. Not to scale, and not drawn to length.



Indicator about as far above the nymph as the water is deep. Drawn, not measured.

RIG IT

1	**Leader and tippet**	A 7½ to 9 ft 4X leader with 5X tippet tied to its thin end.
2	**Tie on one nymph**	With an improved clinch knot. A small nymph such as a Pheasant Tail or Zebra Midge, size 14 to 20.
3	**Pinch on split shot**	On the tippet, about 6 to 12 in. above the nymph. Start with one small shot. Check whether your water allows lead.
4	**Put the indicator on the leader**	Yarn, a plastic ball, foam or putty. It floats and shows you the take.
5	**Set the depth**	Start with the indicator about as far above the nymph as the water is deep. Never touch bottom: move it up the leader. Keep snagging: move it down.

FISH IT

- Water deeper than about 4 ft, or fast: the head of a pool, deep runs, along seams.
- Cast upstream of where you think the fish are, so the nymph sinks before it gets there.
- Watch the indicator against the bubbles beside it. If it runs ahead, mend upstream; if it lags behind, mend downstream.
- Let it drift past you, then pick up and cast again a step farther out.

How to tell a take. The indicator stops, goes under, twitches, pauses or dips: set the hook. If the nymph is ticking the bottom, some of these are rocks. Set anyway.

WHAT CHANGES IT

Rising water. Insect drift rose with flow in the studies, but catch was not measured with it.

Muddy water. In lab studies, young trout and salmon still fed on the bottom in moderately muddy water but saw prey from shorter distances. As method: drift closer, more often.

Winter. Many trout gather in deep, slow pools with cover. As method: fish those first.

In the research Fly Findr draws on, no study tested fly pattern, fly size or tippet against how many trout you catch, or how deep to set an indicator. These are starting points. Some waters allow only one fly or ban lead: check the regulations.