

DIY Cork Strike Indicators

Many of the same techniques used to make top water fly rod lures can be applied to making cork strike indicators for fly rod nymphing.

1. Choose a cork ball, either agglomerated or whole natural cork and seal it with the wood sealer/hardener of your choice.
2. Pierce the cork ball with a bodkin keeping in the center as best as possible.
3. Through the pierced hole, insert a hopper leg tool by Rainy's (sized small), twisting like a drill bit as the tool is pushed through to minimize any damage to the exit side. Alternatively, a needle with a large eye can be used.
4. Using 1.0mm diameter Stretch Magic[®], capture the middle of a 2" (5cm) section in the loop of the hopper leg tool and pull through, resulting in a loop about 1/4" to 3/8" (6-9mm) in length. Any diameter less than 1.0mm Stretch Magic[®] is too flimsy for practical use.
5. Cut the excess Stretch Magic[®] tag ends flush with the cork surface.
6. **WHITE BASE COAT:** Dip the cork half opposite of the loop in Rainy's white popper paint. The white paint will help accentuate the outer color. Rainy's popper paint is thick acrylic; thin acrylic paints require several coats. Allow to thoroughly dry for at least a few hours before continuing. Place in front of a small fan set on low speed to speed drying.
7. **COLOR COAT:** Dip the white half of the cork ball in any bright color of your choice. Allow to thoroughly dry.
8. **SEALER COAT:** Dip the whole cork ball in Softex[™], clear vinyl lure paint or spread a thin coat of epoxy. If Softex[™] is used, two coats is recommended. Allow to thoroughly cure or dry after the sealer coat is applied. The result is a highly durable strike indicator, illustrated in *Photograph 9*.

Material Sources

Cork balls: 1/2", 5/8" and 3/4" cork balls, agglomerated.
Stretch Magic: 1mm clear from any hobby store or online.

