

Strike Indicator's

You're the purist and find them offensive, or the enthusiast who LOVES to catch lots of fish and make the best of every fishing opportunity?

Indicators - Yarns, dry fly, thingy-ma-bobbers, coloured line sighters, pimps and putty... Whatever you want to call them, they're called Indicators and they serve as the mechanism if there is a change in the movement of your fly.

2011 saw me purchase this neat kit that included a sewing needle type thing, clear tubing and coloured sheep wool all designed to be used as a strike indicator. The simplest way to describe the tool is a sewing needle with a small nick taken from the tip. The needle holds a number of hollow tubing pieces about 1-1.5mm in diameter and 2-3mm in length.

The tool simply works by grabbing the leader line in the nick of the needle, you then slide a small piece of tubing (pre-loaded) over the line that is caught in the needle nick, this then forms a loop. Remove the needle tool keeping the loop formed. Carefully grabbing a small pinch of coloured wool, place the wool inside the formed loop. Tighten the tubing down onto the wool and with your fingers slightly pull the tubing over the bend in the wool. You can now trim and grease the wool with floatant. It's that easy...

I have identified just a few things for consideration if you wish to upgrade from your existing float set-ups. The kits aren't cheap and majority of fishing stores don't readily stock them or the wool/ tubing spares. The needle tool may seem relatively small and delicate therefore it could be easily be lost/ broken, and there may be a time when you will need larger tubing to allow more wool to float your very heavy tungsten rigs. The larger tubing isn't included in the basic kit but available to purchase separately.

The great things about this system: You can simply adjust your wool to sink your flies to the desired depth with ease; it doesn't kink your leader; doesn't plop into the water with splash; requires little extra effort to cast and; ingenious really....!

With the flavour of the month being reform this has inspired me to find savings in my private life! Keeping this in mind I've managed to manufacture a similar tool from a sewing needle in my old Navy issue sewing kit. The wool I've obtained from a local shearing shed and have also identified fly tying Float-Vis is a good substitute for the wool. The tubing is another story and I've been successful in sourcing similar tubing from our very handy club member - Jason Middleton.

I estimate I have saved around \$20.00 and I have spares.

Forget the half hitches, sticky dots, huge bobbers and difficult casting and get onto this tool. Winter is upon us and it's the perfect time to arrange your kit in time for opening and this may be what's included on your fly vest.



The kit as purchased from suppliers/ shops with instruction card. RRP \$24.95

<http://www.strikeindicator.com/>



My attempt with glow bead, tying float-vis and craft tubing. \$4.95 max...