

Neil Machin's 'Perfect' F1 Rig

What's Rig?

In this enlightening new series, APF gets top pole anglers to reveal a pole rig that will help you catch more fish. This month **Neil Machin** is in the spotlight, with his F1 rig.

It's fair to say that F1 carp now dominate the majority of commercial fisheries we have in the UK. There are many so-called F1 experts, but Neil Machin arguably sits at the top of this list. To further boost his credentials, he has just been crowned Kamasan Matchman Of The Year for the second time. You simply wouldn't want to draw next to him on any commercial-fishery match.

Part of his success is down to his ability to come up with new ideas that catch him more fish, or give him a better fish-to-bite ratio. One such idea is his much-talked-about F1 rig. When APF first heard about this 'amazing' rig we thought it seemed to have amazing magical powers, but after spending a short session with Neil we can safely say it's simply a standard rig, using standard rig components. However, it's the way that Neil uses the rig and how the rig works that makes it so successful for him.

NEIL MACHIN:

"I've found this rig to work best on canalised commercial fisheries, where the F1s feed very voraciously in the warmer months on the near shelf. It's been especially successful at Heronbrook Fishery because the F1s there love paste, too. I plumb up to find the area where the near shelf meets the flat bottom and

feed and fish just onto the shelf. This area of any canalised fishery is deep enough for the fish to feel safe, but also close enough to make it quicker to build a weight.

"I use a Garbolino DC11 in either 4x14 or 4x16 sizes. The lighter version works for depths up to four feet and the heavier float is best for depths over this. The wire stem helps the float settle quickly and the cane bristle is easy to see and read.

"As F1s hardly fight when hooked I don't need to use really tough tackle. I use 0.12mm Garbo Line and this can still control any bigger carp you may connect with. My hook pattern is a Kamasan B911, in a size 16. I use this for the majority of my F1 fishing with pellets and paste. The rig is shotted with two No10 droppers that help steady the bait as it falls to the bottom, and seven No8s are in a spread bulk above this. The float is undershotted to the base of the bristle and I set the rig so that the paste takes the float down to a dimple.

"The method involves feeding softened micro pellets regularly and fishing with a very small piece of paste that just about covers the whole of the size 16 hook. I use Dynamite XL 2mm pellets and soften these for feeding. The paste is made from a large handful of these pellets that have been kneaded together to make a stiff ball. Start by regularly feeding a small pinch of pellets by hand on the short line. It's normally no more than a top four from the bank, so being accurate isn't that hard.

F1s don't grow that big, so your tackle doesn't have to be too heavy.



Neil uses 2mm pellets as feed.



A stiff paste mix is best.



"With the hook baited up with a piece of paste, I attach the No4 section and swing the rig in a straight line out past my swim. The rig will settle just past your swim, and if the depth is set correctly the float should be underwater. Drag the rig back slowly until the float sits just on the surface in a dimple and it's over your fed area. This is then a very sensitive rig that allows you to see every movement. If it's slightly windy and you need to see more bristle, drag the rig up the shelf a little to allow more bristle to appear. The rig is

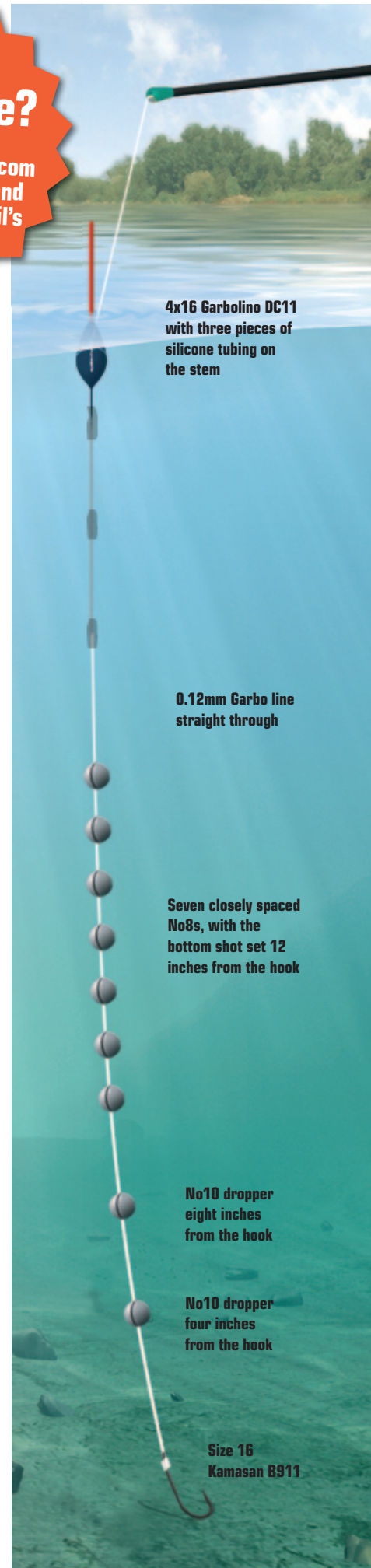
fished very tight to the float and you can see as soon as a fish mouths the paste. A slight lift of the pole sees the elastic pouring out and another fish on.

"This rig is a little hard to grasp because it sounds very complicated, but by working hard and fine-tuning it until it's set right you can catch lots of F1s very easily – just give it a chance to work!" **apf**



Want to know more?

Log on to www.advancedpolefishing.com to watch the video and find out more on Neil's favourite floats...



4x16 Garbolino DC11 with three pieces of silicone tubing on the stem

0.12mm Garbo line straight through

Seven closely spaced No8s, with the bottom shot set 12 inches from the hook

No10 dropper eight inches from the hook

No10 dropper four inches from the hook

Size 16 Kamasan B911