

I have put together very basics of my tenkara techniques in this booklet.

Since basics are just basics and do not apply to all actual situations, do not stick to the basics in this booklet too much.

I would be happy if this booklet could help you improve your skills and build up your own color of tenkara.

I appreciate Mr. Masami Tanaka and Mr. Minoru Tashiro for their cooperation, compiling this booklet.

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1. Game Plan

- Fish various spots first

First, fish various kinds of spots (rapids, glides, pools, etc.) to see where and how active the fish are. Do not stick to one place for a long time. Once you have got the situation, you can fish in the best way for the day.

- When fish are inactive

When the fish are inactive, it is a good option to spend a while at one spot and try different techniques. In such day, even if you fish many spots one after another, it is often unsuccessful.

A difficult situation is a good chance to improve your techniques.

2. Approaching spot

- Be careful at the tail of the spot

Do not spook the fish at the tail of a pool, run, or glide. The spooked fish runs upstream, blowing a whistle, and ruins whole the spot.



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- Walk in the water

In the small stream, if there is a small plunge or a riffle upstream of you, walk in the water to approach the spot upstream of that small plunge or riffle. In this way, you can be on a lower position than walking on the river bank, so that it is difficult for the fish to find you. The plunge or the riffle blocks the water noise you make.



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- You do not have to crawl on your stomach

On a calm pool where the fish can easily see you, walk at a speed of 4 inch/sec or slower, so that the fish do not notice you approaching them.



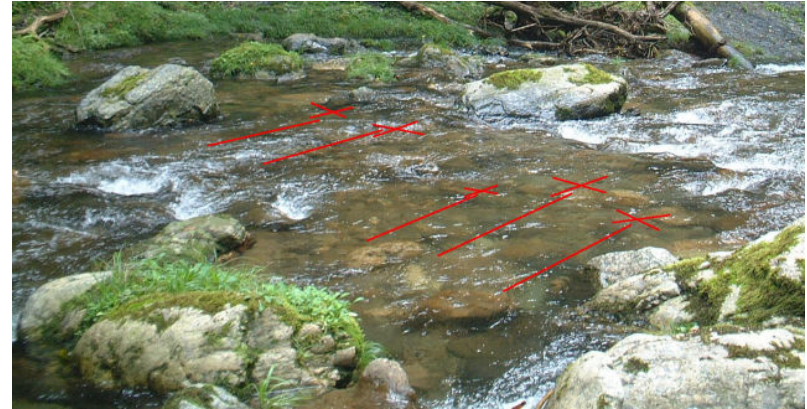
You can get 4-5 feet close to the fish and can take a close-up shot.

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3. Casting a fly

- Anticipate where the fish is, and cast

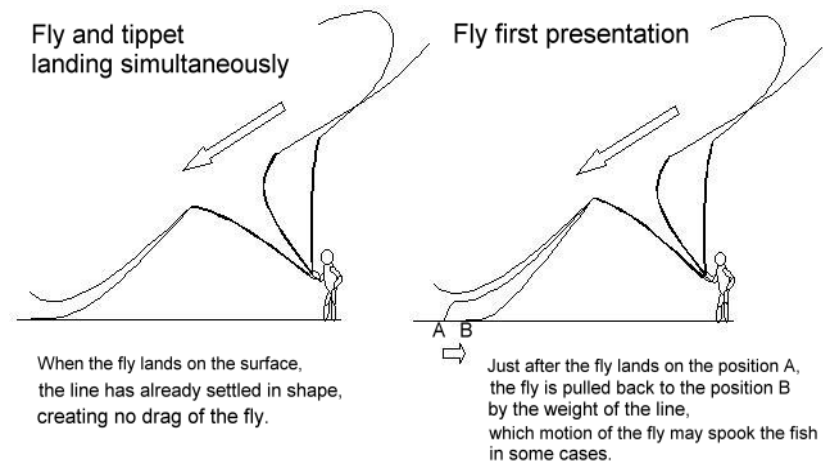
Cast the fly 4-6 feet upstream of the fish expected to be there, and let the fly drift naturally to the fish.



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- You do not have to let the fly land first

I usually let the fly and the top part of the tippet land simultaneously as shown in the left drawing.



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It is not a big problem to make a tippet land together with the fly. When the water surface is rippled, the landing of the tippet does not spook the fish. Even if the water surface is calm, it is not a problem, because the fly is supposed to be presented a sufficient distance upstream of the fish.



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- For softer landing

If you would seek for a softer landing of fly, the side cast would be an effective technique.



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4. Drifting a fly

- Drag-free drift

Giving action to a fly is popular technique, but drag-free drift is also an effective technique.

- Combination of different ways of drifts

It may be effective to fish the same spot with a combination of different techniques such as a drag-free drift, giving action, and reverse pull.



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5. Fishing spots

- Divide a whole spot into small ones

Divide the whole spot into 4-6 feet length spots, and fish the spots, one at a time.

Fish the closest spot first from the position as far as possible, taking advantage of the line length.



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When having finished the closest spot, move forward accordingly for the next spot.



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- Fish the most likely spot first if possible

If plural small spots make up one large spot, fish the most likely spot first even if it is not closest to you. Casting the fly to the less likely spot may spook the fish at the most likely spot.

- Hooksetting by anticipation

Even if you cannot see a fly or a fish, try to set the hook when the fly passes across the position where you expect the fish to take it.

Hooksetting by anticipation is one of our technical goals.



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- Fish the same spot from different directions

It may be effective to fish the same spot twice, once from downstream and again from upstream, thus you can use different techniques.



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- Multiple presentations

It may be effective to cast to the same spot a lot of times.
A few minutes of casting sometimes raises a fish.



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6. Selection of fly

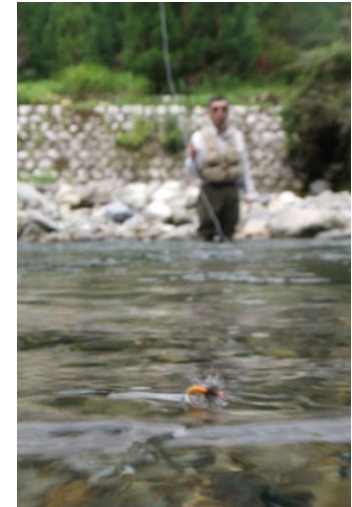
- Soft hackle or Stiff hackle

The soft hackle moves and attracts fish's attention when action is given. For the drag-free drift, the stiff hackle fly is successfully used.



- Dry fly (with floatant)

The dry fly is one good pattern for beginners. You can easily see where the fly is and when the fish takes it.



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