

The Liver Rig

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Illustrated is a rig, which is an absolute godsend for fishing chicken's liver or any other particularly soft bait, which doesn't cast well. I have even used it for cod's roe, which is even softer than chicken's liver.

I don't take all the credit for this one, as it is loosely based on a rig shown to me by Chris Roberts when I was a regular at Crackers Meadow a few years ago. However I have made a few of my own little 'tweaks'. If you look at the Illustration it is actually quite self-explanatory.

You take a largish button (the best being the type that has a built in moulded 'eyelet' rather than the usual 2 or 4 holes). I rooted through my 'other half's' sewing box and found a few luckily! Otherwise go through her old wardrobe of clothes she doesn't wear much (probably about 80% of her clothes if she's anything like my Mrs) and nick a few from inconspicuous areas of a couple of garments. If you get rumbled however – it's nothing to do with me!

Take the button and loop through a length of thick braid, fly line backing or the outer skin of some lead core. You want thick stuff so it doesn't rip through the bait. Then thread a largish rig ring onto the braid and tie it off with a couple of overhand knots to the length you want. The length will depend on the amount of liver you want to use. I was using 5-6 pieces of liver and found a loop about 2.5 inches long about right, but you can experiment. All you have to do then is thread the rig ring onto the loop of a baiting needle and slide on your pieces of liver. Once it is nicely full (say 1cm from the rig ring) then take it off the baiting needle and slide the rig ring on your hook. Secure with a piece of rubber band much as you would a live bait. Job's a goodun.

This rig will cast a treat I can tell you, however If you use slightly frozen liver it will obviously cast even better. Don't go mad, but with soft rods you could cast this twenty to thirty yards. I would mention however that Chris used to catch the Crackers cats under his rod tips!

Incidentally, if you've never used chicken's liver then get on it. I rate it as the very best of all the types of liver available, however you now have a rig that will cast **very** soft baits so go experiment with some new baits.

