



ALLAN PARBERY

PASTE THAT PACKS A

PUNCH

Many years ago, paste was the bait to use. Yes, there were particles and luncheon meat, but paste really was the one, and Allan still utilises a few variations of the powerful mixture within his carp angling. »»



WHY AND WHEN TO USE PASTE

Paste is one of the simplest baits to make, and carp like it too, as do most other species of fish. You can make as much or as little as you like at any one time, so it's also a cost-effective bait. Paste has no hard skin (like a boilie does), so any smell the paste has permeates into the water very quickly and easily. It is simply one of the most adaptable baits out there, with lots of fish-catching capabilities. Fish like the texture of paste, and its nature means that you can use it directly on the hook rather than Hair-rigging it. It is ideal for margin and light tackle fishing. Here are one or two situations where paste is worth a go.

I would suggest that most modern carp anglers have used paste as a boilie wrap at some time or another. I have used it for barbel, but rarely for carp, although the idea is exactly the same. In reality, I wanted to use a paste as bait, but nuisance fish and river flow ensured the paste was only going to last x amount of time. I needed a bait to still be there after the paste had gone, so the obvious thing was to use a boilie on the Hair and cover it with a dollop of paste. In stillwaters, if there are few nuisance fish, the paste should dissolve after a while and leave a small area around the hookbait which may carry flavour for a long period of time.

My favourite time to use a paste is when fish are actively messing around close in. Invariably, for me anyway, this involves the use of a float - if there isn't one in your box of tricks, go out and buy one; a Drennan Crystal is my favourite. In my opinion, there are two ways to fish this paste.

set the float, and bunch the shot close to the float, using enough to cock the float but not take it near the colour marking. Use enough paste to cock the float correctly. (It is best to use the smallest float you can get away with.) If you fish like this you will know when the paste has dissolved because the float will lift slightly. There should be no messing about with bites when fishing this way - the float will slide to the side and go under.

2. Make a less soluble paste and fish it slightly over-depth, with a few small shots close to the hookbait. Bites will generally be a slight lift and then it will slide away. The disadvantage with this is that you don't know if a shoal of roach has destroyed the bait.



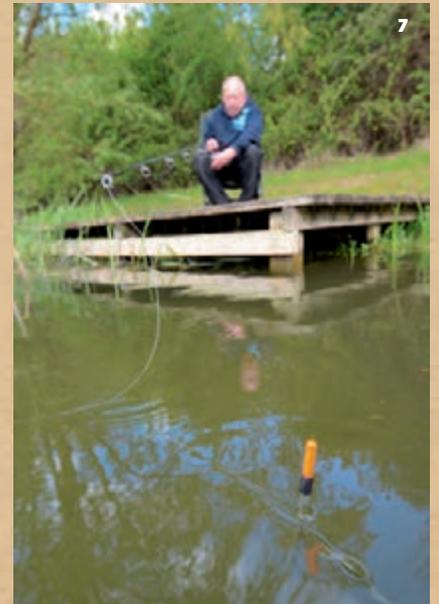
1. Make a really soluble paste - one which will completely dissolve within minutes. Plumb the exact depth and



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- 1 August 1975, the height of the special paste days.
- 2 An early success for a paste-wrapped boilie.
- 3 From the old Mid Northants fishery, taken on the float when stalking.
- 4 Pellets can quickly and easily be turned into paste.
- 5 Cover the pellets with boiling water for a few seconds before draining off the excess.
- 6 As old as the hills, but a paste-wrapped boilie will still catch loads of fish.
- 7 A piece of tube nicked on the hook acts as the perfect anchor for your paste.
- 8 Commercially available pastes make life easy for modern anglers.

WHAT DOES PASTE GIVE YOU THAT'S DIFFERENT?

Paste is almost unique in the fact that it is easily moulded to suit a situation. It can be made into any shape or size - a flat piece will sink very slowly and wave from side to side on the way down if free-lined. It's fantastic for enticing moving fish - not many baits beside flake can do that in a moment's notice.

Paste can be made into a different bait within seconds by adding any number of other ingredients or attractors. With a standard paste mix, two people will make different baits to each other - you might make an orange Tutti Fruity, and I may make a darker Marmite one. There is just no end to the possibilities, some of which I will outline later.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PASTES

Mistral have around 10 different ready-made pastes available for anglers to try. They are simple to use so you probably won't use them where you need a fast-dissolving bait. However, they are great for moulding around boilies, etc., using as a stalking bait, and using under the float, and they will stay on the hook for quite a while. If you are having difficulty with the paste slipping the hook, just attach a small piece of crust, sweetcorn, or even rubber tube to the hook and then attach the paste to that. Simple and effective.

CREATE YOUR OWN PASTES WITH A FEW SIMPLE INGREDIENTS

You can easily make enough paste to last a session or even

longer in just a few moments.

Bread paste is still one of the very best available, and I still use it when the time is right. I believe that some of the big old carp from Billing Aquadrome were caught on bread paste with added banana. How many chub have been caught on bread paste with cheese? Loads and loads is the answer. Simply soak some white bread with the crusts removed for a few seconds, squeeze out the moisture, and you're ready.

Pellet pastes are available commercially, and are very effective for the most part. Many are sold for about £4 a bag and they will last quite a while. The better ones are made of finely milled pellets; however, they are best used under the float, with the paste being part of the cocking weight. These pastes break down very quickly and release lots of small particles in the vicinity. Used in conjunction with pellets as feed, these can be devastating.

If you fancy messing with these, you can. Try adding some krill protein concentrate as the liquid and the whole paste changes tune. It becomes a slower-dissolving paste that can be used in other ways - something easier to use, in fact. I used the KPC as an example, but other liquids can be just as good. A fish oil will bind the ingredients to make an easy-to-use paste.

Continuing the pellet theme, try putting some pellets into a sieve; our Ten Pellet is a good example. Pour boiling water over them and leave for a few minutes. When the pellets are soft all the way through, they can be kneaded together and left until the paste reaches the correct consistency. If you need the paste to be a little stiffer, raid the kitchen

cupboard and add a few breadcrumbs.

More complex pastes started coming out in the 1970s - Black Magic, Red Slyme, PYM, amongst several others. It is interesting to note that these pastes used to sell for £2.50 per pound, or £5.50 per kilo. If you add inflation to these prices, it comes out at £50 per kilo in today's money. Please stop telling me bait is expensive nowadays - it isn't. The Red Slyme, for instance, was quite a successful bait. From memory, it was made up from wheatgerm, very fine maize flour, and sodium caseinate with added lycine, methionine and arginine, and a fruity flavour. It was horrible to mix up ('sticky' hardly being the right word to use), but it did catch fish, and a lot of them.

As a base for your own paste, you need a few things to start with. Firstly, you need a protein which holds the bait together. Any of the milk proteins will do, even Five Pints. You then need an agent to bulk it up, one which tastes nice. What about a Weetabix, and maybe a bit of breadcrumb too. An oil or fat would be useful, perhaps bacon fat. Add these together, mix well, and slowly add water or another liquid until you get a paste. It's then ready to use. I mentioned Marmite earlier, but Nesquik, Angel Delight, or a whole lot of things I've never heard of, will do. Curry powder, chilli powder, Five Spice - you name it, it will catch.

I must mention my all-time favourite paste now, which is beef sausage meat with added sardine or salmon. Mix the two together and you get a mush, but by adding breadcrumbs a bit at a time, a brilliant bait will emerge.

Now go out and catch a wary carp or two - and be different. **CC**



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