Homemade Paste Baits

Ideal for cold water conditions - (and for all year-round catches too!)

It is well known that during the cold months of October through to late April bait selection is crucially important to carp fishing success. Not only is bait performance vitally important in ‘denser’ water conditions where the dispersal of many bait substances may be much more limited, but nutrient digestion and other aspects of bait need to be absolutely right to maximise the chance of success.

As I write this in early February, the weather is ideal for homemade paste making!

Please note that pastes in this article exclude liquid egg!

Results of testing baits in the small lake outside my kitchen window tells me it is a perfect time for paste baits - as they will perform very favourably against the vast majority of other carp baits in such cold conditions!

CC Moore’s balanced complete food baits such as Odyssey XXX, Live System, Meteor and N-Gage have been designed for and are very well proven as effective fish catching products during even the coldest months of the year. The wide range of pellets available today is simply amazing, with the pellets matching the CC Moore boilie range being extremely successful. All the proprietary CC Moore pellets are used and completely trusted by many of the leading anglers in UK, Europe etc because their levels of natural nutritional attraction and digestibility are optimised to maximise their performance in various conditions (often by very complex design).

Boilies without egg:
I’ve found you can make great homemade boilies using the following base mix combination:
40% Meteor, 40% Live System, 20% Odyssey XXX. (Such boilies are beautifully soluble and easily digested!)

Left:
A quickly-made homemade mixture of CC Moore pellets and liquids, combined with a variety of powdered ingredients.

Such unique mixtures form highly successful naturally instant-acting cold water pastes. These can include liquid liver, yeast, betaine, molasses, kelp complex and Red Venom.

(Cyprivit supplement is excellent; cold carp really benefit from its energy-enhancing properties)
CC Moore have so many outstanding pellets it is very difficult to choose between them; examples you could use in your pastes include N-Gage, Odyssey XXX, Meteor, Live System, Betaine HNV and Betaine Ultramix, Spice Amino, HDE, Milkimin, Cantax Red, Amino Green 365, Boosted Belechan, Boosted Mussel, Shrimp, Boosted Bloodworm, CSL, Hemp and the brand new Elips pellets! You might go for any of these mixed with the superb Liquid N-Gage! I recommend even using your own homemade pellets that may not even look like pellets (i.e. not extruded, compressed, cut or shaped by machine.) Using pellets with a 10 minute or even 1 - 2 hour break down time in pastes plus homemade pellets that may even break down over 5-6 hours in cold water produces a range of different impacts and effects - something new for warier fish!

Pastes have many advantages over boilies especially in cold water conditions. This aspect of carp fishing is something I have always been very keen to exploit! The use of pastes need not be limited to hookbait wraps, rig wraps or method mixes for instance. In the cold when using pastes as free baits and hook baits, you have the potential for getting even more bites than when using conventional boilies.

Instead of just using boilies, using homemade and readymade boylie base mixes and pellet pastes etc (all combined for example,) can be exploited to greatest effect in very cold conditions, by making pastes in a myriad of formats and designs; applied in various different ways.

How many anglers actually fish using a paste bait on its own, or use a boillie or pop-up bait plus a paste bait attached to a hook I wonder?

It might not be the fashionable thing to wrap a tiger nut, a chick pea or black eye, or a string of hemp seeds or a couple of balanced pop-up baits, or even a salted mussel or shrimp in paste but I know it really works. Such things are the kinds of alternative things that trick wary carp; it just takes a bit of lateral thinking.

Here are just some of the liquid ingredients (plus additional powdered additives) used to make some homemade pellet soaks for producing seriously potent homemade pastes for cold water (or warm water) fishing. In this example liquid molasses and raw molasses meal make an extremely significant portion in the paste baits made.

Many anglers worry about hook baits being taken off or whittled down by smaller fish - which is one reason why boilies came about of course. But remember that small species take boilies and pellets off rigs and many smaller species get hooked on boilies all the time including roach, crucian carp, eels, tench, bream etc, in fact so much so that these species are often fished for using boilies to select the biggest specimens!
Here is an example of a paste that contains softened ‘intact’ pellets; such bait can be cut into cubes for really different baits! When it breaks down the intact pellet pieces will prolong the attraction, and pellets used in this unique way can even be pre-soaked in whatever liquids you wish in order to further boost their appeal and manipulate how long they last before breaking down.

E.g.: You could pre-soak them in liquid molasses or Liquid Betaine and Liquid Super Slop, or in Hemp oil and Talin, or in Salmon oil and Trout/Halibut Pellet oil for example.

Be aware that you can manipulate pastes in many ways to make them more or less resilient, and make their characteristics such as their textures, densities, solubilities, smell, tastes, buoyancies, shape and nutritional profile totally unique. You can make them suit whatever specific fishing situation you face, even to the point of putting off the attentions of less desirable species.

(Fish taste preferences can be very specific and this can be exploited in various ways!)

You can make pastes that are extra hard and resilient, extra heavy and able to be launched at great range. You can make them to last for hours and hours, or dissolve in seconds; or make them hang in different levels of the water in various balanced forms. You can make paste baits resemble natural creatures in both feel and appearance as well as the natural nutritional food signals the give off using suitable ingredients, liquids, extracts etc.

To make things easy as a starting point on this subject I have prepared a bait that anyone can make using CC Moore pellets although you can of course use additional pellets, ingredients and additives including your own homemade pellets as part of the mix!

In my own fishing I have proven the kinds of paste baits described here are ideal for year-round use, but these baits are especially outstanding as a highly digestible, highly water soluble and extremely stimulating unique baits for cold water conditions - when bites are often hard won! Theses baits can be made as hook baits, however I know many of you will prefer to use your own choice of hook baits. Therefore why not give these ideas a go for unique free baits. Use them just like boilies, particles, pellets and so on in PVA nets and bags, spods etc, and as mass free baits or even as ‘method-style baits.’

![Image of bait mixture]

Here is a mixture of unique homemade pellets and boilies that have received an additional oily liquid mix of salmon oil, hemp oil and other liquids to boost their attraction! You might try mixing in other things to enhance their taste, smell and durability, such as sweeteners like Talin, Ultrasweet or Fructose concentrate, while using combinations of Trout/Halibut pellet oil, Hemp oil and Salmon oil for example.

Part of the benefit of unique paste baits is how different they can be to anything fish have experienced previously; thus giving fish that vital extra bit of confidence!

Paste baits are fast acting on fish senses and tempt them into feeding mode much faster than boilies and many other baits that essentially need to absorb a percentage of water to truly release the bulk of their attraction (and this takes time which is in effect wasted fishing time!)

You can also make pastes in numerous random shapes (en masse) in just a few minutes without using a machine.

Such baits obviously will have a great edge over conventional round pellets and boilies that fish have been used to dealing with for years and become increasingly wary of feeding on.
CC Moore’s very economical liquid molasses and molasses meal are fantastic nutritional stimulants and attractors to use as bulk ingredients and additives in bait making; and are especially suitable for cold water fishing with their high level of residual sugars (although they are also really effective all year round!) Although pellets are used in this example, the secret to the kind of paste baits described here is what they are based on, i.e. highly nutritional water-soluble molasses in raw meal and liquid form (mixed for maximum two stage attraction!) Before being warmed and added to pellets to form paste other additions can include betaine, Feedstim XP, Lactose concentrate, Fructose concentrate, Talin, flavours, Hemp oil, Enzyme-treated yeast, essential oils and various other additives too. Also adding a small proportion of water helps mixing and absorption into the pellets.

Liquid Molasses and Molasses Meal:

You might think that boilies, pellets and paste baits are all very similar in how they stimulate fish internally and externally, but by adding certain additives and nutrients to your mix you can dramatically increase the speed to which fish positively react to your bait in comparison to others – in any conditions.

In addition to the homemade version of baits given here you can form your own paste baits from the CC Moore freezer bait pastes, which match their readymade boilies and matching pellets.

These readymade base mixes and matching pellets (plus the new N-Gage range) are ideal for inclusion in highly digestible pellet-based cold water pastes. In fact the packet at the front here contains a mixture of 3 base mixes for paste making use!

If you base your homemade pastes on products higher in bulk marine or vegetable oils (inc. Hemp) you will find that they take longer to break down. In winter this factor is a vital point to consider as fast breakdown often indicates more efficient digestion of a paste too! For instance the molasses-based pellet paste ideas here included a significant level of hemp oil and this slows down breakdown, but the plus side is that this oils is viscous and disperses very well in even winter water temperatures – and really entices carp to feed while not significantly reducing bait digestion and fish appetite (that lower your chances of bites!)

You could well say that the more suitable your pellets are that you use for pastes, the faster your bait will be digested- and the more opportunity for getting bites will be reflected in you catching more fish!
The only reason I am limiting my pellets in this example to the ones used here is simply due to not having others available right now - so please be creative!

Pictured left are (dry) mixed pellets before soaking in warmed liquids.

Use those pellets most suitable for low temperature for winter and spring use and avoid those pellets not specifically designed for carp such as the high oil halibut, trout and salmon pellets. The much smaller sized versions of these (Mini Halibut) are more suitable as they will break down more quickly, but I would mix these with the even more potent specially-designed CC Moore Coarse fish pellets!

Incidentally, if you want your readymade or homemade pastes to break down differently, releasing different nutrients into your swim, why not mold into them any of a range of products, from Fermented Shrimp Powder, Soluble Fish Protein, Enzyme-Treated Yeast and Liver, Calcium Caseinate, Lamlac, Vitamealo and other milk powders. Breadcrumbs, Dried Bread Flake, Crushed Hemp, Fine Oyster Shell, Instant Spod and method mixes all add an extra dimension that will stimulate fish, as will small 2 hour-dissolving pellets and crushed particles too!

You could add CC Moore’s own ready-prepared mixture of pellets (Betaine Ultramix, Mini Ultramix, Pellet Ultramix) with incremental breakdown rates too or mix and match whichever ones you favour – but do experiment as you may be close to discovering a huge new edge that you can use and monopolise with great success?!

Do not neglect flavours and essential oils in the cold of winter and spring as they really can make all the difference – even on waters where fish may normally be cautious of more commonly used concentrated flavours! Why not try CC Moore’s Ultra Belachan or Green Lipped Mussel Essences for a smooth savoury fish flavour…

Above:
Dry mixed pellets with liquids added at the start of soaking.

Left:
A pan full of mixed pellets beginning to soak.

In this example pellets were added to three quarters of the height of this pan and liquid soak was added to a level 1 centimetre below the top of the container. The pan was warmed on the stove on minimal heat to improve the soaking process; this pellet soak contained a high percentage of molasses.

See all pellets are coated…
Here is a pan full of mixed pellets after soaking – in this case for 48 hours.

The firmer, intact pellets at the top are incorporated into the paste baits to prolong impacts and duration of paste for a double whammy effect!

Examples of additives for pastes (in any combinations) may be some of the following: CSL powder, soluble fish protein, Hydrolysed Poultry Protein, spirulina, green-lipped mussel extract, lactose concentrate B+, Feedstim XP powder, pure betaine, concentrated yeast powder, enzyme-treated liver, enzyme-treated yeast, fructose concentrate, CC Moore Ultra Sweet and CC Moore Cyprivit.

Try experimenting with these kinds of potent powdered additives in whatever combinations you like using the recommended rates (or where they are unlimited try really high inclusion levels!)

You can use various base mix ingredients for various practical and nutritional effects in colder water; once you understand the functional, nutritional and attraction properties of an ingredient you will understand how best to use it at any time of the year. Density, solubility, taste, colour, texture and nutrients can all play a vital role.

The soaked pellets at the top of the container are soft but still intact. Such baits make excellent instant-acting hook baits for many fishing situations!

These fully softened pellets having absorbed the liquids completely are ready to squeeze together to form unique homemade paste or ground bait! If your pellets are too wet at this point simply add some base mix powders or additional ingredients etc.
Above: A newly-made ball of unique pellet paste (it does not have to be round at all!)

Not all the pellets have absorbed the liquids to the same degree another feature, which I think, can be a real plus in making unusual and unique homemade baits with textures different to those in standard baits!

Groundbait ingredients that are extremely successful in colder conditions include: Molasses Meal, Crushed Hemp, Breadcrumbs, Dried Insect Meal and the new Dried Bread Flake.

Any of the readymade method, spod and stick mixes can be used in pastes, as can all kinds of particles in various ways.

Note: Although I realise many of you will go for things like Red Pepper Plus, Sweet Nut Cloud, Active Feast, Tiger Nut Mix, CSL Groundbait or Long Range Method mix, do not forget that the Fish Frenzy XP Spod mix, that although fish in fish proteins, is highly digestible and ideal for cold conditions!

So many particles can be utilised in different ways. Used directly you might include crushed and whole hemp, crushed tiger nuts, flaked maize, buckwheat, particle mix + aniseed or crushed peanuts for instance. Crushing up Steeped Black Tiger Nuts and White Haze particle mix for use in paste is just one idea for a very alternative cold-water winner!

The choice of liquids to use in cold-water pastes is extremely varied and includes:

Liquid foods: the matching liquids usually used with the readymade boillie base mixes, Feedstim XP, Liquid Super Slop, Red Venom, Hemp Oil and any of the CC Moore essential oils used individually or in combination or with flavours (essences).


These and the other liquid foods in the CCM range give you a multitude of options that can really improve the effect of your bait.

All the CC Moore flavours (Ultra Essences) can help personalise your bait and natural products such as Super Slop, Frozen Bloodworm and Belachan block (finely chopped or dissolved in liquids of your choice) make great year-round additions that tie your bait in to natural foods, which fish pick up readily.
Above: Testing paste in cold water (4 degrees - reflecting the cold water conditions of winter/spring)

Above: Note the breakdown of the paste after 1 hour’s immersion;
Above:
After 2 hours immersion this paste is breaking down quickly from within, dissolving highly attractive bait substances and liquids into the water!

Above:
At 3 hours immersion:
Above: After 4 hour’s immersion this paste bait is a pile of extremely attractive sediment ready to waft up and disperse while the more intact but highly digestible pellets from within the paste are still breaking down and prolonging the constant stream of attraction!

Above: At 4.5 hours the bait has fully broken down without any help of water currents or fish attention, but its effects to catch fish would have been working hard long before this time!
Above: If a fish entered the baited zone between 1 and 5 hours+, the effect would have been this highly attractive cloud of stimulation to trigger feeding – with no solid free baits present the chances of more bites on hook baits is maximised in the cold!

Above: Highly soluble molasses-based paste baits are ideal for cold-water conditions and can be used alone as fresh or air-dried free feeds or with pellets, boilies, ground baits or particles in any kinds of mixtures. This is a mixture of air-dried homemade pastes:
Above: This special molassed paste bait works on even pressured circuit carp waters where fish gorge on protein and other key nutrients. It even works on giant wild virgin waters that have never seen a boilie before, where carp are well-fed grazers always on the move. This paste bait format presents highly concentrated natural feeding triggers to carp senses that they instantly find irresistible!

Above: This big Essex carp caught circa 1989 was hooked on a homemade bait used for the first time ever that very morning (it was the third biggest fish in the lake.) Captures like this have made me very keen to create countless different homemade baits over the years, as well as doing my own thing with many readymade baits and readymade boilie bases mixes and ground baits etc too.
Above: Satisfaction is not all about the fish!

Above: A 21st birthday fish, from February 1987, caught by hitting a single beep (on a double hair; sinking bait and pop-up bait hook rig,) when using homemade baits. Why not try versions of this double hair rig idea instead of a conventional snowman rig; it really works in the cold!
A March 1990s 25lbner after a night of sleet and northerly winds caught with 2 other good fish.

This carp was hooked on a homemade ‘molassed’ boilie hookbait used with molassed free baits and ground baits fed in on a little and often basis.

For similar effect homemade molassed pellet paste baits (and ground baits) today, why not include any of the following:

Dried Insect Meal, Meggablend Sweet (or Meggablend Red etc.) Supernaturals, Ultra Sweet intense sweetener, Fructose Concentrate, Robin Red, betaine, Red Venom, Ultra Honey Essence, Clove Essential Oil - and the new CC Moore Liquid Shellfish Concentrate!

Note: Dried insect meal may seem a strange ingredient to use, but you can use it dry or pre-soaked in liquids of course. Maybe we are more familiar with bloodworms, snails or mussels, but if you look into the amino acid profiles for example of insects that carp eat naturally, you can understand immediately just how stimulating, attractive (and easily detected) they really are to carp! If you have ever witnessed how much carp can get tunnelvisioned when there is a hatch of caddis flies occurring for instance, you will appreciate what I mean! In a way all we are doing with bait is harnessing the intrinsic power of nature itself to make catching fish a lot easier...

The unique buzz of doing your own thing and being different brings its own rewards for more innovative and creative anglers (even when fishing against better anglers!) It brings into your fishing an incredibly enriching dimension.

It brings the kind of fishing satisfaction that many anglers these days do not realise exists - having never experienced it by making successful homemade baits or even by adapting or using readymade baits in much more imaginative ways so give it a try with focused intent and you’ll be uniquely rewarded........big-time!

By Tim Richardson