

Fly Tyer



SPRING 2015

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PAGE 16

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Volume 21, Number 1
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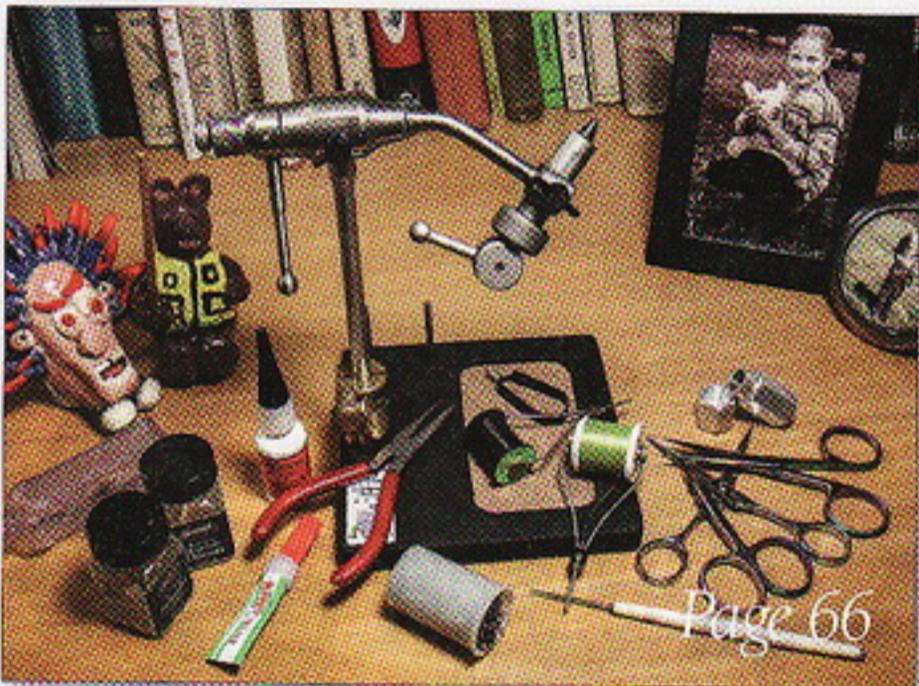
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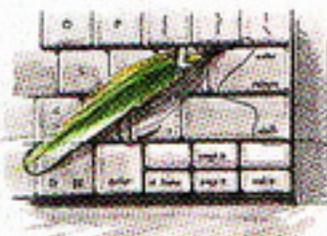
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Scott Stryker did an outstanding job of making this realistic stonefly nymph. Photography by David Klausmeyer





EDITOR'S BENCH

by David Klausmeyer

The Book on Hooks

IT IS SAID THAT THE HOOK IS THE chassis of the fly. That's an apt description. We place the hook in our vise, and then secure the parts to it—the tail, the body, the wing.

We might also call the hook the foundation of a fly, and like any strong building, a quality pattern must have a sturdy base. This is especially true of a hook designed to catch Atlantic salmon. These fierce fish can quickly bend out an inferior hook; I've actually had that happen when fishing for salmon on the Miramichi River.

I recently received a new book titled *Salmon Fly Hooks: Antique Hooks and Contemporary Hook Makers*, by Paul Rossman. Paul, who has occasionally appeared in the pages of this magazine, is a master at tying full-dress salmon flies. In addition to making the classic patterns, he also creates modern artistic flies based on the classic form. All of Paul's work is impeccable.

Like almost everyone bitten by the salmon fly-tying bug, Paul is a passion-

ate student of the history of the flies and materials. The hook is one of the most curious ingredients. Just like building a better mousetrap, over many decades manufacturers have tried designing better hooks. The shapes of the bends and points, the size of the barbs, the length of the shanks, and other features were altered to create hooks that, in the eyes of the manufacturers, would do a better job of catching and holding big fish. This history is the subject of the first half of *Salmon Fly Hooks*.

The second half of *Salmon Fly Hooks* is a beautifully illustrated compendium of contemporary artisans who craft fine hooks designed for making classic salmon flies. While I expected to find makers from every corner of the globe, what struck me was the age of many of these craftsmen. Several hook makers are quite young. Joonas Pysays, of Finland, can't be 30 years old, and Cole Madden and Brad Kern, both of the USA, aren't much older. (There is also one woman, Claudia Eva Maria Zancaner, of Sweden).

In a world in which many tiers have turned to using excessive amounts of foam and flash, Paul Rossman's *Salmon Fly Hooks* proves that the high art of dressing beautiful Atlantic salmon flies is alive and well. For more information, go to Paul's website, www.creativesalmonflyandart.com.



Written and Photographed by Paul Rossman

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Letters to the Editor

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Fly Tyer

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

These tiers have spent years developing innovative flies and tying methods. We are indebted to their expertise and willingness to share what they know. by David Klausmeyer

Starting in 2011, this magazine began recognizing the leaders in the field of fly tying with the *Fly Tyer* Lifetime Achievement Award. The recipients of this award are some of the most influential people who design the patterns and tying methods we all use to make better fishing-catching flies. Most importantly, they eagerly share what they know with fellow tiers. Some recipients of the *Fly Tyer* Lifetime Achievement Award run the businesses that produce and distribute the materials we use to make flies; without them, we might not tie flies at all.

We have given the *Fly Tyer* Lifetime Achievement Award for only four years, and already competition for this recognition is keen. Readers now contact us throughout the year with their nominations for this award. But we do not see this as a competition. The *Fly Tyer* Lifetime Achievement Award is just our way of thanking those who have played major roles in helping all of us get more enjoyment out of tying flies.

First, here are the past recipients of the *Fly Tyer* Lifetime Achievement Award. Then we will introduce you to the Class of 2015.

2011

DICK TALLEUR Pattern designer, author, and teacher. Dick wrote for this magazine and our sister publication, *American Angler*, for many years. He also wrote many fly tying and fishing books. In 2008, I presented the Golden Hook Award to Dick at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum.

JOHN BARR Pattern designer and author. John created the Copper John series of nymphs, the best selling flies in the world.

DR. TOM WHITING Dr. Whiting owns Whiting Farms, and is the leader in developing and distributing what we refer to as genetic hackle.

2012

JAY "FISHY" FULLUM Author, artist, instructor, and pattern designer. Fishy's regular column, titled "Creative Tying," has appeared in this magazine for 20 years. His unique watercolor artwork appears throughout this magazine.

MIKE MERCER Pattern designer, instructor, and author. The Foxy Back family of flies is among his important designs. He continues developing innovative patterns.

BRUCE OLSON Bruce selected the new patterns sold by Umpqua Feather Merchants, the largest commercial fly-tying outfit in the world. These flies, and the people who design them, become instantly known throughout the fly-fishing world.

TOM SCHMUECKER Tom and his family own Wapsi Fly, the largest fly-tying supply company in the world. It has long been said that it is almost impossible to tie a fly that doesn't contain at least one material that has passed through the doors at Wapsi.

2013

AL & GRETCHEN BEATTY Pattern designers, authors, instructors, and conservationists. The Beatty's have contributed articles to this magazine for many years.

They are also among the leaders of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

CRAIG MATHEWS Materials developer, fly shop owner, pattern designer, author, and conservationist. Craig owns Blue Ribbon Flies, of West Yellowstone, Montana. In addition to creating new flies and tying materials, he played an instrumental role in founding the conservation organization, One Percent for the Planet.

BOB POPOVICS Pattern and materials designer, lecturer, instructor, and author. Bob revolutionized our views of fly tying with his Surf Candy family of patterns. He continues developing new flies and tying materials.

2014

CHUCK FURIMSKY Director of the International Fly Tying Symposium. The International Fly Tying Symposium is the largest gathering of tiers in North America. Every year, expert tiers from around the world gather to share their favorite patterns and tying ideas. Chuck is also a contributing author to this magazine.

SKIP MORRIS Author, lecturer, instructor, and pattern designer. Skip has written dozens of articles and a fistful of books about fly tying. Carol, his wife, is a talented photographer and key contributor to his writing. Although she insisted that only Skip receive this recognition, we also tipped our hat to her fine work.

TOM ROSENBAUER Author and lecturer. Tom has written dozens of fine articles about fly fishing and tying, as well as several highly regarded books. In 2001, he received the National Outdoor Book Award for his *Orvis Fly-tying Guide*.

BRIAN CHAN Pattern and materials designer, author, lecturer, and fisheries scientist. Some anglers consider Brian one of the High Priests of fishing the famed Kamloops region of British Columbia. He served as a fisheries biologist in Kamloops for 35 years, learned the secrets of

catching trophy stillwater trout, and travels North America sharing what he knows with fellow fly fishers.

PHIL ROWLEY Pattern and materials designer, author, lecturer, instructor, and television host. Phil is a hardworking fly fishing enthusiast who spends a great deal of time on the road writing, teaching fly tying and fishing, and lecturing to clubs. Phil is one of the hosts of the television show, *The New Fly Fisher*.

Recipients of the 2015 Fly Tyer Lifetime Achievement Award



Ed Shenk

Ed Shenk has fished since the age of two or thereabouts, and he caught his first trout at the age of seven. Ed has fished Pennsylvania's famed LeTort River ever since.

Ed has traveled the world in search of good fly fishing, but he is best known for

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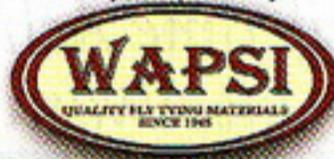
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FIRST WRAPS

the decades he has spent perfecting patterns and angling techniques for catching the Keystone State's wary spring-creek trout. Ed has tied flies for more than 75 years, tying commercially for most of that time. You might have used some of his famous patterns, including the LeTort Cricket, LeTort Hopper, Shenk Cress Bug, Shenk Sculpin, Double Trico, and others.

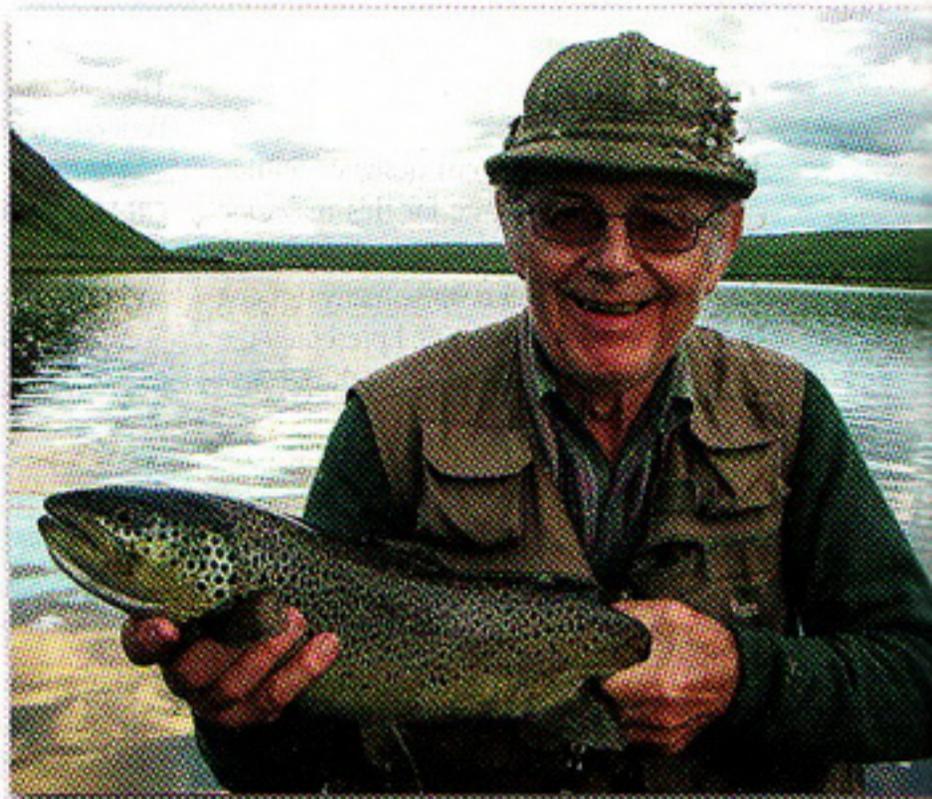
Many contemporary tiers are unaware that Ed popularized the dubbing loop or "fur chenille" tying method. He was the first tier to trim these fur loop-based flies to specific shapes such as the flattened oval Shenk Cress Bug. The late Jack Schneider, of Montana, first described the fur loop, but Ed was the first to trim it to shape.

Ed received a degree in forestry from Penn State University and worked as a land planner for many years. Starting in 1965, he taught fly fishing through the Orvis Allenberry Fly Fishing Schools, LeTort Limited, and the Allenberry Inn. Working with Joe Humphreys, Ed taught fly fishing through Penn State.

Over the years, Ed has written more than 50 articles for a variety of publications, and he has contributed to this magazine since the 1970's. In 1989, Ed published his well-received book, *Fly Rod Trouting*. Ed's VHS video, which was re-released as a DVD in 2013, is titled *Ed Shenk, Master of the LeTort*.

Ed has fished with actor William Conrad and Pennsylvania Governor Ray Shafer, and he has tied flies for President Jimmy Carter. But more important—at least to us—is the fact that he fished with Vince Marinaro, Charles Fox, and many of the other anglers who perfected "technical" match-the-hatch fly fishing methods.

Ed Shenk was inducted into the Fly Fishing Museum Hall of Fame in 2012, and this year we are pleased to give him the *Fly Tye* magazine Lifetime Achievement Award.



Oliver Edwards

England's Oliver Edwards is a master at designing realistic-looking flies for real-world fishing situations. Using a very limited palette of materials, he creates amazing patterns that look as though they might crawl or fly away.

We have tied and used many of Oliver's patterns. Some of his best-known dry flies and emergers are the Mohican Mayfly, CDC Bubble Wing Caddis, Tri-Vis Black Gnat, Queen Black Ant, Footprint Dun, Emerging Dun, Semi-Circle Spinner, and Yellow May Emerger. These lightweight patterns float well, mimic real insects, and catch trout and grayling.

If you fish nymph, larva, and pupa imitations, you'll want to add some of Oliver's patterns to your fly box. Although extremely real looking, they are deceptively easy to tie. His Hydropsyche Larva, Rhyacophila Larva, Swimming Rhyacophila Pupa, POPA Caddis, Peeping Caddis, and Deep Diving Shrimp are among our favorites.

In 1995, Oliver published *Flytyers Masterclass*. In this book, which features his own expert tying illustrations, he demonstrates how to make many of his most important and enduring patterns. This book was a revelation to all tiers interested in upping their games to create realistic fishing flies. Although the original volume is long out of print, used copies are widely

available or you can purchase a new revised edition. Add this book to your fly-tying library if you are interested in making better fishing-catching patterns.

Oliver is also featured in a series of high-quality fly fishing and tying DVD's titled *Essential Skills With Oliver Edwards*. These DVD's cover everything from fishing dry flies, wet flies, and streamers, to explaining Czech nymph-fishing methods. If you would like to learn more about tying his patterns, check out the two DVD's titled *Essential Patterns With Oliver Edwards*.

Over the years, Oliver has traveled to the United States to attend fly fishing shows and tie flies at fishing clubs. He is a bridge between English and North American tiers, and we all benefit from his expertise.



Gary Borger

I first met Dr. Gary Borger 30 years ago at a fly shop called Lac Loon, in Lexington, Kentucky. Anglers came from far and wide to meet Gary and watch him

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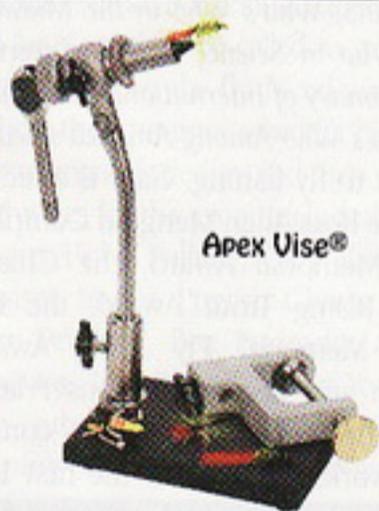
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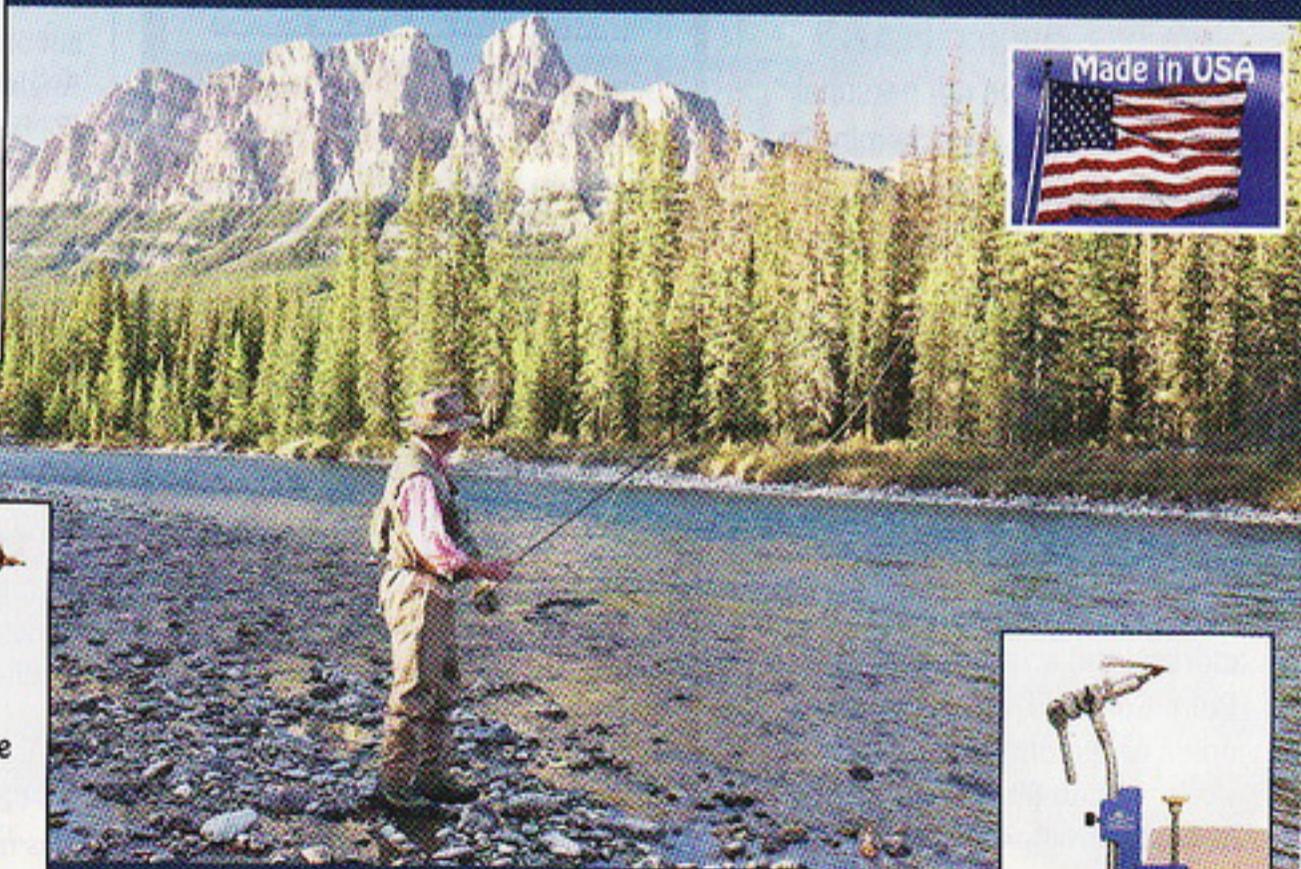
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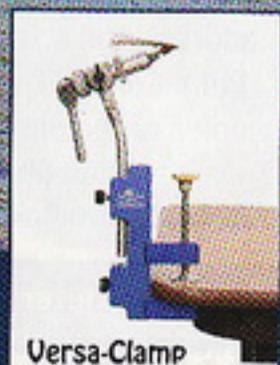
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FIRST WRAPS

tie flies. That was three decades ago, and he was already a recognized leader in fly fishing and tying.

Gary's first major successes were his books *Nymphing*, which was published in 1979, and *Naturals: A Guide to Food Organisms of the Trout*, which landed on bookstore shelves in 1980. In these volumes, Gary brought his scientist's keen sense of observation to understanding trout foods and its imitations. And Gary continues to write, for this magazine, other periodicals, and more books.

Gary is a talented teacher and lecturer. His talks at the fly fishing shows are always packed with anglers, and his tying demonstrations are lively and very informative. After leading hundreds of classes, Gary remains energetic and inspirational.

He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin campus in Wausau. His professional achievements have been recognized in The Millennium Edition of *Strathmore's Who's Who*, *Who's Who in the Midwest*, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, the *Dictionary of International Biography*, and *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. Back to fly fishing, Gary is a recipient of the Ross Allen Merigold Complete Angler Memorial Award, the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Award, the Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award, the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award. In recognition of his conservation work, he received the first Lew Jewett Memorial Life Membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers. On a fun note, Gary was a technical consultant on the major motion picture, *A River Runs Through It*.

Today, Gary is busy at work with his son, Jason, on a 20-volume set titled *Fly Fishing, the Book Series*. In this privately published serialized set of books, Gary pours out everything he has learned about fly fishing and tying.

Gary is still a regular contributor to this magazine, and we are pleased to give him the Fly Tyer Lifetime Achievement Award.



2014 FLY TYING SYMPOSIUM WINNERS EXHIBIT AMAZING SKILLS AT THE VISE

EVERY YEAR this magazine is one of the sponsors of the International Fly Tying Symposium. This great event, held in Somerset, New Jersey, is one of the largest gatherings of top fly-tying talent in the world. For the second year, the International "Super Fly" Tying Competition was a featured event at the Symposium.

Fifteen-year-old Rylie Lake stopped the judges in their tracks with a spot-on realistic imitation of a lady bug at the annual International Fly Tying Symposium in Somerset, New Jersey. Lake, of Nanoch, New York, won the competitive Youth Division by replicating the realistic methods of noted fly tier Bob Mead.

According to Chuck Furimsky, the director of the Tying Symposium, the youth winner "learned how to tie the Lady Bug by watching Mead. Bob thought the youngster was so nice when he called to get his permission to enter the fly. Mead was pleased by how the youngster asked for his permission to enter his design, and then won."

Judges for the event included fly tying experts Fishy Fullum, Gary Berger, Bob Clouser, Enrico Puglisi, Charlie Craven, Marc Petitjean, Ben Furimsky, and Bob Popovics. In addition to the Youth division, other categories of flies, with the winning patterns and tiers, are as follows:



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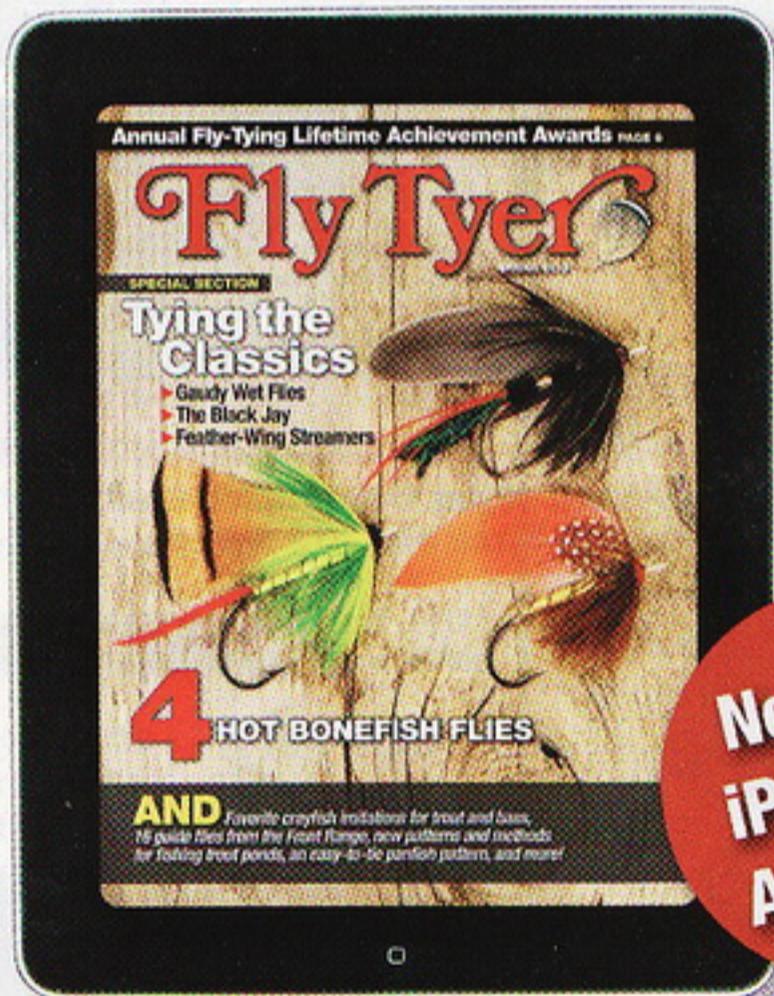
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BASS: (There was a tie) Shadnado (above), by Bryce Fitzgerald, West Grove, Pennsylvania, and Deer Hair Popper (below), by Holger Herold of Germany.



REALISTIC: Morphing Stonefly, by Scott Stryker, Scotch Plains, New Jersey



SALMON/STEELHEAD:
Parson, by Bill Chandler,
Burlington, Vermont.



TROUPE: Gray Fox Paddyhute,
by Greg Glitzer, Douglastown,
Pennsylvania.

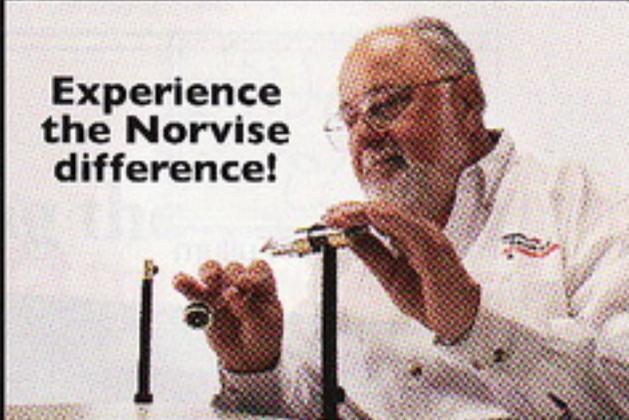


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The NAIL-UM STREAMER



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bass LOVE this fun-to-tie fly.

THE SALES ASSOCIATES AT THE LOCAL CRAFT STORES HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW ME. I have shown them some of the creations I make using the things I buy from them. A couple of the women have introduced me to new products that have found their way onto hook shanks and appeared in this little series of articles. I am comfortable while searching craft stores for strange stuff, but I am still uncomfortable walking up to the cash register when purchasing the materials for the Nail-Um Streamer.

I always get strange looks from the salesperson on the other side of the counter when buying nail polish, but the reaction is even more interesting when I include fake fingernails; I can only imagine what she thinks I might be doing with my purchase.

The reaction from a salesperson doesn't really matter; what's important is the response from the fish. After developing the first Nail-Um Streamer, I made up a collection and put them to the test. They cast as expected—a little heavy at the end of the leader—but they worked fine when I used a 6-weight rod. I was also concerned about how they would track through the water; I wasn't sure if they would ride hook-point up or down. But this streamer sinks slowly after entering the water and swims with its hook point down when retrieved.

I tied several different sizes and colors of the Nail-Um Streamer onto the tippet and dragged them along the side of the canoe to see how they looked. After attaching a bright red Nail-Um to the line, I lobbed it 10 feet from the end of my rod and raised the tip to bring it into view. Just as the Nail-Um Streamer began moving, a bass rose from the depths and inhaled it. This new creation passed the field test. It is a winner! 🐟

Jay "Fishy" Fullum has been sharing his unique flies in the pages of this magazine for 20 years. To learn more about his patterns, purchase one of his pieces of art, and more, go to his website, www.fishyfullum.com. Fishy lives in New York State.

Tying the Nail-Um Streamer

1 Wrap the hook shank with thread.

2 Tie on the first layer of the tail.

3 Tie on the second layer of the tail. Try matching the color of this layer with the color of the head of the fly.

4 Trim the fake fingernail to the desired shape. Use craft scissors—not your good fly tying scissors—then smooth the edges with an emery board.

5 Place the nail on the hook and apply a generous amount of superglue along the hook shank. Check the alignment of the nail and immediately apply a drop of Zip-Kicker to the superglue.

6 Fill the inside of the fingernail with five-minute epoxy. The epoxy strengthens the nail and makes the head very durable.

7 Paint the bottom of the head with fingernail polish.

8 Paint the top of the head with nail polish and let it dry for about five minutes. Apply a second coat of polish, position the eyes, and let the polish dry. Add a couple of topcoats of clear polish over the eyes and head.

9 Add a throat using the same material as the base of the tail.

MATERIALS LIST

HOOK: Choose a hook that accommodates the size and shape of the fake fingernail.

THREAD: White 3/0 (210 denier).

TAIL & THROAT: Your choice of natural or synthetic hair.

HEAD: A fake fingernail.

MORE STUFF: Superglue, fingernail polish, and small doll eyes.



The Art of Realistic Fly Tying

Have you ever wondered, How do they do that? A master at making realistic patterns shares his secrets for tying a lifelike stonefly nymph.

Tying realistic flies may seem a bit intimidating, but with a little insight and understanding, it is not hard to do. When it comes to making realistic flies as art, there are no rules or patterns to follow. Hopefully the techniques I share will help take your tying to another level and give you some insight into realistic fly tying.

Stonefly nymphs are probably the first flies most tiers want to make. Whether it is a stonefly nymph or any other type of

pattern, there is no limit to the detail you can add. Although it is time consuming to craft, the stonefly in this article is fairly

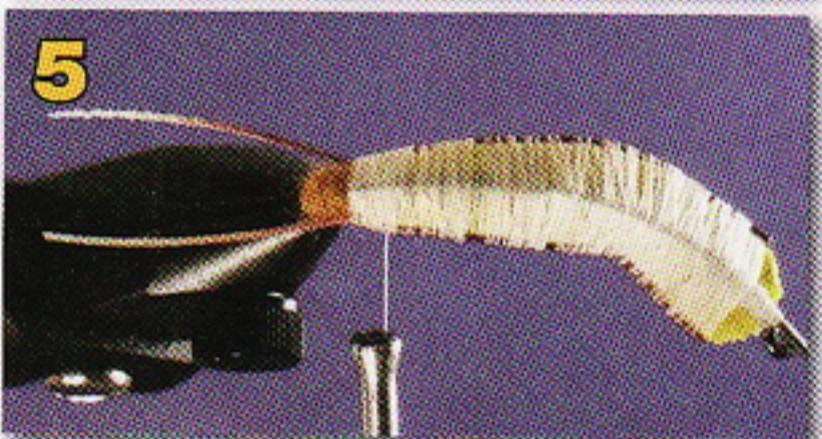
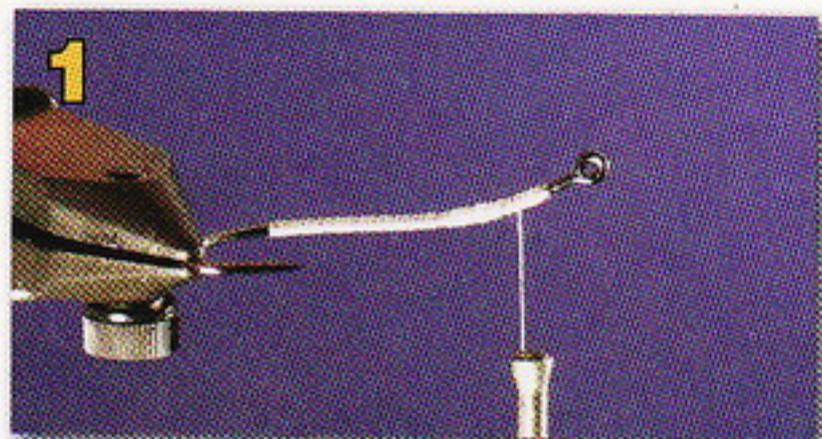
straightforward and requires only a few materials: thread, foam, monofilament, and chenille. That's it!

First Thoughts

Having a vise with pointed jaws and good holding power is a key to tying realistic flies. This type of vise gives access to the hook when making all the parts of the fly and holds the hook securely in a variety of positions.

Keep in mind that hooks are not always





Crafting the Body of the Fly

1 Bend the hook shank to give the fly a realistic shape. Wrap the shank with thread.

2 Tie a small length of wire to the hook.

3 Cut a long, wedge-shaped piece of plastic to fit the hook shank. Cut the plastic where the hook bends. Adjust the angle of the cut so the two halves meet; you might have to do some trimming so there is no gap between the pieces. Tie the pieces of plastic to the hook to create the underbody of the fly.

4 Apply glue to the seam in the plastic underbody. Cut off the corners and smooth the edges of the plastic.

5 Wrap a small ball of dubbing at the end of the body. Tie on the tapered monofilament tails of the fly.

6 Cut a six-inch-long, ¼-inch-wide strip of foam. Tie on the end of the strip in front of the dubbing.

7 Wrap the foam up the hook to create the abdomen of the stonefly. Note that the foam and thread wraps cover the hook eye. This is okay! So far, making our bug has been a breeze.

Notes on Making Legs and Wing Pads

The legs and wing pads are some of the first things you'll notice on a well-tied realistic stonefly nymph. Do not make these parts before constructing the fly; instead, craft them as needed to determine their proper size and proportions. Here's how.



1 Fold a six-inch-long piece of 20-pound-test monofilament into a 90-degree angle; this serves as sort of a chassis for one set of legs. Glue four equal pieces of monofilament to the chassis; the size of the body determines the length of these pieces.



2 Wrap the glued sections of monofilament with thread. Gently touch a heated bodkin to the inside of the bare monofilament to bend the mono up at a 90-degree angle to create the lower portions of the legs.



3 Glue four pieces of monofilament to the lower legs.



4 Wrap the lower legs with thread. Gently touch a heated bodkin to the outside of the bare monofilament and bend the bottom sections of the legs. Leave these sections about 1/4 inch long; we'll trim them later when attaching the claws.



5 Color the legs using permanent markers. Seal the legs using clear nail polish or a light-activated acrylic finish.



6 Just as with the legs, make wing pads as you need them; size the pads to fit the proportions of the fly you are tying. Here I folded and shaped a hacksaw blade into the correct size and shape of a wing pad, placed a piece of foam in my homemade tool, and melted the edges of the foam.

designed to fit the particular fly you are tying. It is often necessary to modify a hook. You might want to bend the hook to make your fly appear as though it is moving, or the shank might be too short for the fly you wish to tie. You can extend the length of the fly using narrow-diameter wire, such as the .031-inch stainless steel wire I use in this pattern, or you can substitute the shank of another hook. Whichever method you use, you can lengthen or shorten the shank as you go along, or reattach the hook eye as you come to the end of the fly. Because this is a display fly, I have chosen a new Partridge hook for its display-quality finish, but you can use any 3X-long grasshopper hook.

I use a small piece of shaped flat plastic, such as a section from a plastic fork, as an underbody. Whatever plastic you use, first smooth the edges with a fine file so it does not cut the tying thread. A little prep work will save you some frustration later on.

Realistic stonefly nymphs are tied using a lot of different materials; the majority of ingredients are stretch elastic. I prefer using thin foam because it is so easy to color using permanent markers, and the ink bleeds together, which gives me the realistic look I am trying to achieve. The color I start with is not always the color of the finished fly. For this particular fly, I start with tan foam and color it yellow. This yields better results than just starting with yellow foam, plus the yellow ink bleeds well with the other colors when I coat the foam with clear nail polish. The amount of time the colors sit before coating determines how much they will bleed together; the longer the colors dry, the less they will bleed. When using yellow and brown, like on this pattern, I apply the ink and then coat the foam with polish about 10 minutes later. I then quickly place the foam in the freezer for a few minutes, which gives it a nice sheen.

Regardless of the brand of yellow marker I use, if superglue comes in contact with the ink, the color turns bright red. If it is necessary to do any type of gluing, seal the yellow ink first. And when making something as detailed as this stonefly, I color the parts of the insect



Making the Thorax

1 Color the abdomen. Here you will want to experiment with your permanent markers. Refer to the text of this article for ideas, and work slowly. Finally, seal the abdomen and tie the rear set of legs under the body.

2 Tie on a piece of chenille and wrap the first part of the thorax. Tie on the first wing pad.

3 Color and seal the wing pad. Tie on the second set of legs.

4 Wrap more chenille to make the middle of the thorax and tie on the second wing pad.

5 Color and seal the second wing pad. Tie on the front set of legs.

6 Determine where the head of the finished fly will be in relation to the front legs. Snip the eye and a short section of shank from another hook. Cut the wire coming from the front of our fly; leave a small piece of wire in front of the legs. Tie the hook eye to the wire. Coat the thread wraps with cement.

after performing each step rather than waiting until finishing the fly; if a section doesn't come out right, I can simply retie that part of the fly.

Color the fly using inexpensive disposable brushes. Apply the ink using brushes to avoid contaminating the markers with other colors. I also seal the foam using Tuffeye or one of the other light-cured acrylic finishes. When using a light-cured acrylic, the colors do not blend so much, so experiment with pieces of scrap foam and see what results you prefer. The ink from some markers bleeds more than others, which also affects the results. Both stoneflies in the accompanying photos were colored exactly the same with yellow and brown markers. On the darker fly, however, I immediately coated the colored foam and then brushed the ink so the yellow turned light brown. On the stonefly in the tying steps, I let the ink thoroughly dry to avoid bleeding, resulting in a much lighter color. Once again, experiment with scrap pieces of foam, markers, and clear coats to discover which results you prefer.

As for coloring and marking the flies, I have spent countless hours studying photos of stoneflies as well as the real insects, and there are literally thousands of different pattern markings. Don't feel as though you must be exact when coloring your fly.

Tips for Making Those Amazing Legs

I learned how to make the legs from the late David Martin; I am not sure if he created this method, but I learned it from him many years ago. It is simple but very effective and practical. First, wrap pieces of monofilament with thread in the shape of legs. Color the wrapped thread to your liking, and then coat with clear nail polish or a light-cured acrylic. As with the foam for the abdomen and wing case, I prefer using white or tan thread colored yellow. Keep the pieces of monofilament side by side when wrapping the thread to create a flat, lifelike leg. (Study the accompanying photographs for ideas.) Make one set of legs at a time and as they are needed; this is the best way to judge the size of the legs as you tie the fly. Adding the claws and hairs to the legs is very tedious and best done after completing the fly.

Pulling pieces of monofilament through a folded piece of sandpaper is the typical method for making tapered antennae and tails. I shape tails and antennae using a round sanding drum installed in a drill press. (You can also use an electric hand drill if you have someone to hold the drill.) Stretch a piece of monofilament between your hands. Twist the mono and slide it back and forth over the spinning drum; I usually do this until it breaks in the middle, giving me two tapered pieces. This method will give you more con-

trol over tapering the pieces and keeps them round in shape; pulling the monofilament through a piece of folded sandpaper will create a flat side. A rough sanding drum will chew at the monofilament, making it look slightly hairy.

I make tails and antennae using Maxima chameleon monofilament; it is stiff, and sanding turns this line from the original brown to yellow and eventually clear. I can gauge the taper by the color of the mono; I want the material to go from brown to yellow, and eventually to white, which tells me I have the perfect taper.

More Realism

Wrapping chenille for the thorax creates gills. Although most chenille looks the same, it does vary depending upon the manufacturer. Look for chenille that is a bit on the stiffer side with slightly spare fibers. This material creates a spiky look, which is what you want for imitating the gills of a stonefly. You can leave the gills white or color them if you wish.

When making the wing pads, commercially available burning tools do not always suit my needs and I often make my own. Sometimes, if I am lucky, I will have some extra brass burning tools lying around that I can reshape to the profile and size I need. As with the legs, I do not make the wing pads ahead of time, but wait and make them when I need them so I better determine the correct size.

The best tip I can give is to take your time, do not get discouraged, and be willing to experiment. When tying a realistic pattern of this level and complexity, I sometimes let the fly sit on my desk between steps for a couple days or even weeks, and I usually work on it for only an hour or two at a time; I'm not racing to fill a fly box for fishing. Let your imagination run wild and give realistic fly tying a try!

Over the years, we've asked many master tiers to write this article. New York's Scott Stryker agreed to unveil some of the mysteries of making a realistic stonefly nymph. When he's not tying flies, you might find Scott guiding fishing clients in the Adirondack Mountains. For more information about his flies, tying materials, and much more, go to his website, www.strykerscustomflies.com.



Stryker's Realistic Stonefly Nymph

- Hook:** Partridge CS54 or any 3X-long grasshopper hook. I am using a size 1 hook in the tying photo.
- Thread:** White 3/0 (210 denier).
- Abdomen and wing pads:** Fly Foam.
- Gills:** Stiff-fibered chenille and ostrich herl.
- Antennae and tail:** Maxima chameleon monofilament.
- Legs:** Tying thread over monofilament.
- Eyes:** Plastic dumbbell eyes or melted 20-pound-test monofilament.
- Color:** Permanent markers.



Completing the Realistic Stonefly Nymph

1 Make the last wing pad; this pad is thinner and longer than the first two. Tie the wing pad right behind the hook eye and pointing forward.

2 Tie on the antennae and dumbbell eyes.

3 Tie on a final piece of chenille. Wrap the chenille around the front legs and eyes. Pull the foam back and over the top of the head. Tie off and clip the thread.

4 Color and seal the head wing pad. Next, wrap some thread around the base of the antennae to enhance their taper. Color and seal the thread.

5 Strip the fibers from one side of a piece of white or gray ostrich herl. Carefully glue the herl to the back edge of one of the legs with the fibers pointing toward the foot. Add ostrich herl gills to all the legs. Work very slowly and carefully.

6 Now we'll add the feet. First, trim the last little sections of the legs to length. Bend a piece of monofilament to create one claw; one end of the mono is short to create the front of the foot, and the other end is long to give us something to grasp. Glue the bent monofilament to the end of the leg. Clip the long end of the mono and coat the joint with cement. Continue adding feet to your fly.

7 Go over the entire fly, touching up the colors. We didn't make this fly in one sitting, but the results are very gratifying. Show this pattern to your fishing buddies, and they'll hail you as the fly tying guru of your club!

I've lived in Colorado since 1980 and have fly fished many of the streams in our beautiful state. It seems that each year more folks come here to do the same thing. When I worked in a fly shop during the early years, the most common question was, "What's hatching?" I no longer work in a fly shop, but I still get the same question through emails and phone calls. Whether you are planning your first visit or have already fished in Colorado and were confused about the hatches, I hope what follows will answer this question for you. The flies I have selected cover most of the situations you are likely to encounter on tailwaters, mountain lakes, and freestone mountain streams.

Midges Hatch All Year

Midges are on the water year-round. River trout are used to seeing them and will happily sip in a Black Midge most of the season, have cream midge imitations for fishing lakes and ponds. Olive midges begin hatching sometime after the middle of the year and can be masking hatches of black midges and blue-winged olives. On tailwaters, look for dun midges a few miles downstream.

Global climate change has come to Colorado. Blue-winged olives used to begin hatching around late February and last into the first two weeks of November, but for the past two or more years, they have begun emerging in late January and last until December. The early BWO hatches are darker in color than the flies in the accompanying photographs, and as the sun gets higher in the sky in late spring and during the summer months, their color begins lightening. As autumn sets in, their color darkens again. If you are a "colorist" like me, this can be an important bit of information.

The early blue-winged olive hatches (January through March) are also a size larger, so you will need a few size 16 flies. In late fall, you'll want size 24 and even size 26. Use the same pattern designs listed in the recipes, but change material proportions. You will find blue-winged olives hatching on all tailwater and freestone streams throughout Colorado.

More Mayflies

Red quills hatch throughout Colorado. Use the Western Red Quill for fishing on the Western Slope of the Rockies. There is another version of the same fly hatching on the eastern slope; the imitation has a gray tail and hackle. Know where you will fish—east or west—and tie the matching pattern.

The red quill hatches begin in May and linger into October. The hatch progresses in elevation as the season progresses. A Red Quill Parachute, tied in size 18, is my go-to fly when there is no hatch and I don't want to rig up to fish nymphs; it almost always catches trout.

Pale-morning duns often emerge with the hatches of blue-winged olives and green drakes. These can all happen at the same time, and the trout will switch to feeding on

one or the other insect at any moment. The accompanying pattern is what I call my "standard" PMD, but I tie it in different color variations. The Fryingpan River contains two body color variations. One version near the dam at Ruedi Reservoir has a bright, neon green body; the other below the Taylor Creek inlet, which flows from a red rock canyon, has a body that is rusty pink. All the insects below this junction contain a tinge of rust in their bodies.

Look for green drakes in rapids as well as in smooth pools. I often clip all the bottom hackle off the imitation so that it sets flat on the water. Clipping the bottom hackle can also prevent the fly from spinning and the tippet from twisting when casting.

Drunella flavelinea is not an immature green drake, although it does look much like a green drake when flying over the stream. It begins emerging during the green drake hatch, but it is a size smaller. If you're not getting any action from your Green Drake pattern, switch to the smaller Flavelinea. For some reason, trout often prefer one pattern to the other, so you should have both in your fly box.

I should say a word about caddisflies. Caddis begin hatching in the spring and continue into late fall. There are several color variations of caddisflies, but I've found the following two are all that I need for any stream fishing. I've caught trout on the yellow St. Vrain from Denmark to Vermont; that color works well, and it is easy to see on the water.

Beyond Match the Hatch

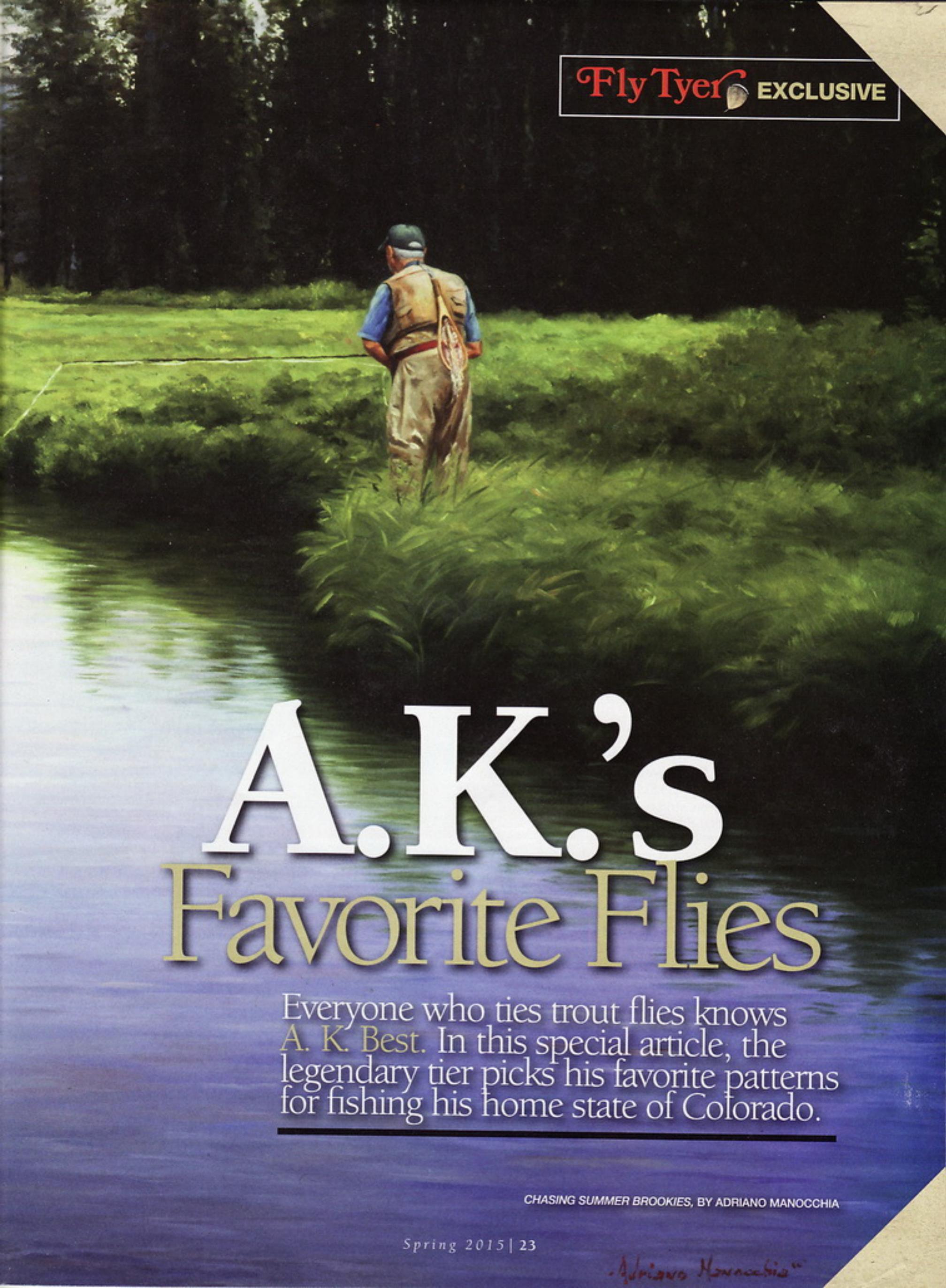
What can I say that hasn't been said about the wonderful Royal Coachman? The only change I suggest is to use a white turkey T-base feather for the wings. Cut out the center quill for a distance equal to the length of the hook shank, fold back the remaining fibers until each side is equal to the length of the shank, and proceed as you would when tying with calftail hair. This version of the Royal Coachman is much lighter in weight, and you don't need to stack hair. Fish this fly on any broken water when there is no hatch.

You should also have some standard Adams duns and parachutes in sizes 20 through 12. "When in doubt, tie on an Adams," is an expression that is true; it's heard on just about every trout stream in America. An Adams works almost everywhere.

If you insist on nymph fishing, you'll need nothing more than Hare's-Ear and Pheasant-Tail Nymphs. I assume you don't need recipes for these common patterns.

That's a down-and-dirty peek inside my fly box. I carry a few other patterns, but these are the flies you must tie before visiting Colorado. Regardless of where you fish, if you use these flies, you will catch fish.

A. K. Best is one of our best-known fly tiers. He has contributed articles to our magazine over the years, and we are glad he has returned. A.K. teaches fly tying and appears at shows and clubs across the United States.



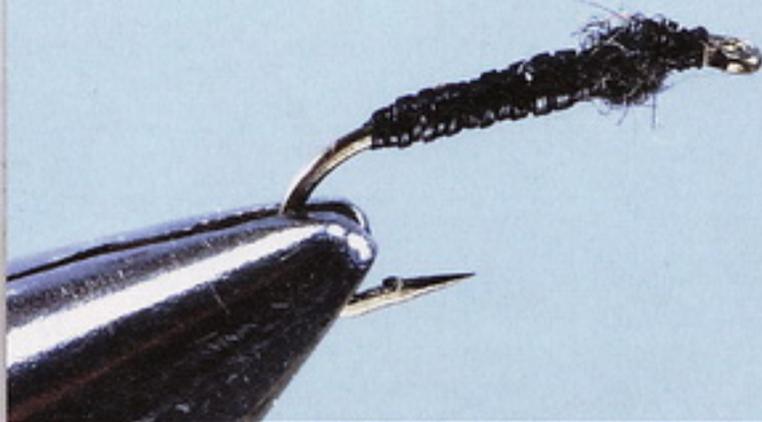
A.K.'s Favorite Flies

Everyone who ties trout flies knows A. K. Best. In this special article, the legendary tier picks his favorite patterns for fishing his home state of Colorado.

CHASING SUMMER BROOKIES, BY ADRIANO MANOCCHIA

BLACK MIDGE LARVA

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Two black moose mane hairs.
Thorax: A tiny ball of black Australian opossum dubbing.



BLACK MIDGE EMERGER

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Trailing shuck: Four or five mallard flank fibers dyed tan.
Body: Two black moose mane hairs.
Wing: A strip of freezer bag.
Hackle: Black.



BLACK MIDGE ADULT

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Two black moose mane hairs.
Wing: A strip of freezer bag.
Hackle: Black.



DUN MIDGE LARVA

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Gray 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed grayish white.
Thorax: A tiny ball of gray Australian opossum dubbing.





DUN MIDGE EMERGER

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Gray 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Trailing shuck: Four or five fibers of gray mallard flank.
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed gray.
Wing: A strip of freezer bag.
Hackle: Medium dun.



DUN MIDGE ADULT

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Gray 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed gray.
Wing: A strip of freezer bag.
Hackle: Medium dun.



CREAM MIDGE LARVA

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Beige 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light ginger.
Thorax: A tiny ball of amber Australian opossum dubbing.

CREAM MIDGE EMERGER

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Beige 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Trailing shuck: Mallard flank fibers dyed tan.
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light tan.
Wing: A strip of freezer bag.
Hackle: Light ginger.



CREAM MIDGE ADULT

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Beige 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light ginger.
Wing: A strip of freezer bag.
Hackle: Light ginger.



OLIVE MIDGE LARVA

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.
Thread: Beige 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).
Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light green.
Thorax: A tiny ball of light tan Australian opossum dubbing.





OLIVE MIDGE EMERGER

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.

Thread: Bright green 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).

Trailing shuck: Four or five natural mallard flank fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill light green.

Wing: A strip of freezer bag.

Hackle: Light dun.



OLIVE MIDGE ADULT

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 22 to 18.

Thread: Bright green 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light green.

Wing: A strip of freezer bag.

Hackle: Light dun.



BLUE-WINGED OLIVE DUN

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 26 to 16.

Thread: Light green 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).

Tail: Medium dun coq de León Pardo fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light olive.

Wings: Medium dun hen hackle tips.

Hackle: Medium dun.

BLUE-WINGED OLIVE PARACHUTE

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 26 to 16.

Thread: Light green 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).

Tail: Medium dun coq de León Pardo fibers.

Use a few more fibers on the parachute than the dun version.

Wing post: White turkey T-base feather.

Hackle: Medium dun.



BLUE-WINGED OLIVE SPINNER

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 26 to 16.

Thread: Beige or light tan 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 (70 denier).

Tail: Light ginger coq de León Pardo fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light brown or tan.

Wings: A pair of white hen hackle tips tied flat.

Thorax: Fine light brown dubbing.

Note: I've had good luck starting the morning using the spinner; it's the last thing the trout saw the previous evening, and it's easy for the fish to take.



ST. VRAIN CADDIS (YELLOW)

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Yellow 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Pale yellow rabbit underfur with no guard hairs.

Wing: Bleached elk or whitetail deer flank hair.

Hackle: Light ginger.





ST. VRAIN CADDIS (OLIVE)

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Olive 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Fine olive dubbing.

Wing: Natural elk or whitetail deer flank hair.

Hackle: Brown.

Note: Most tiers use enough hair in the wings of their caddisflies to tie three flies. Look down through the wing of your fly; you should be able to see the body. Remember that an adult caddis often flutters its wings in an attempt to get airborne, and a sparse wing is best.



RED QUILL DUN

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Olive 6/0 (140 denier).

Tail: Brown coq de León Pardo fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed brown.

Wing: Dun hen hackle tips.

Hackle: Brown.



RED QUILL PARACHUTE

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Olive 6/0 (140 denier).

Tail: Brown coq de León Pardo fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed brown.

Wing post: White turkey T-base with center quill cut out.

Hackle: Brown.

PALE-MORNING DUN

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Beige 6/0 (140 denier).

Tail: Light ginger coq de León Pardo fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light tan.

Wing: Cream hen hackle tips.

Hackle: Medium light ginger.



PALE-MORNING DUN PARACHUTE

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Beige 6/0 (140 denier).

Tail: Light ginger coq de León Pardo fibers.

Body: Turkey flat quill dyed light tan.

Wing post: White turkey T-base feather with the center quill cut out.

Hackle: Medium light ginger.



GREEN DRAKE

Hook: Dai-Riki 710, size 12.

Thread: Danville Monocord, green.

Tail: Clump of moose or elk body hair.

Body: Wild turkey biot dyed Kelly green.

Wings: Medium dun hen hackle tips.

Hackle: Mixed medium dun and grizzly dyed green.

Note: The green drake hatch on the Fryingpan River typically started in mid-August, but in the past few years it has begun in mid-July. It generally lasts well into September, but this past season it went into early October.





RAVELINEA

Hook: Dai-Riki 710, size 14.
Thread: Danville Monocord, green.
Tail: Brown coq de León Pardo fibers.
Body: Wild turkey biot dyed Kelly green.
Wings: Medium dun hen hackle tips.
Hackle: Mixed medium dun and grizzly dyed green.



ADAMS DUN

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.
Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 70 denier.
Tail: Brown coq de León Pardo fibers.
Body: Fine gray dubbing.
Wing: Grizzly hen hackle tips.
Hackle: Mixed brown and grizzly.



ADAMS PARACHUTE

Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook, sizes 18 to 12.
Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier) or 8/0 70 denier.
Tail: Brown coq de León Pardo fibers.
Body: Fine gray dubbing.
Wing post: White turkey T-base feather with the center quill cut out.
Wing: Grizzly hen hackle tips.
Hackle: Mixed brown and grizzly.

THE N A T U R A



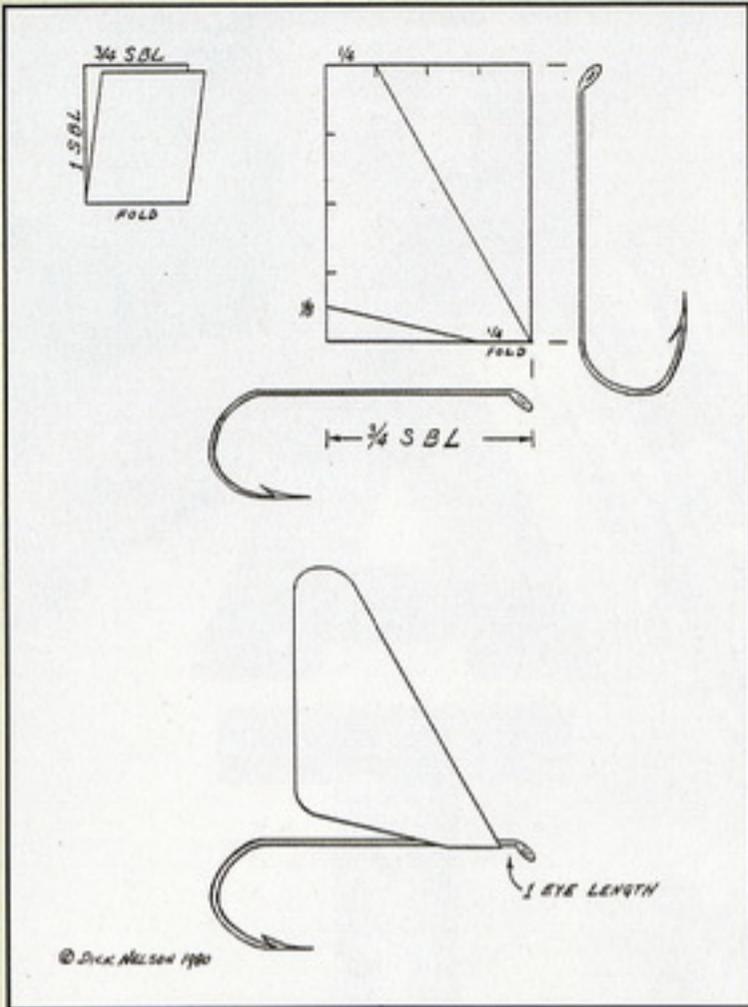
L O O K



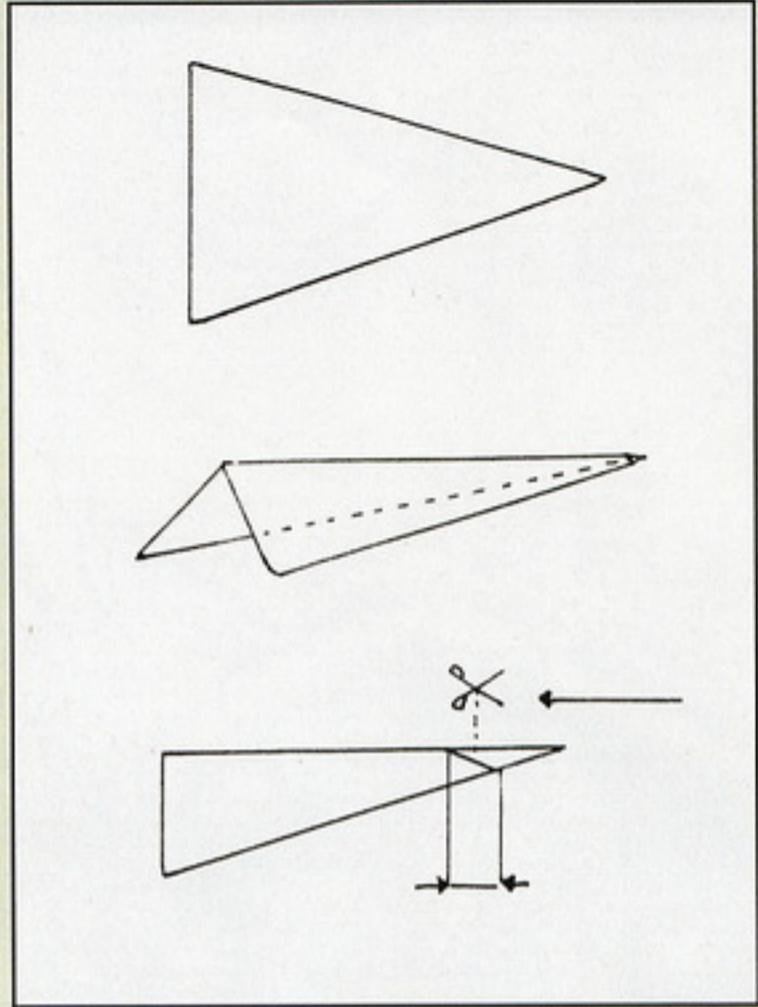
Make the wings on the Upside Down Spinner from organza ribbon. Although you might think this pattern is not fishable, I catch quite a good number of fish with it, especially during the *danica* hatch.

Hans van Klinken says making realistically shaped wings is easier than you think. Follow his methods, and you will tie better flies!

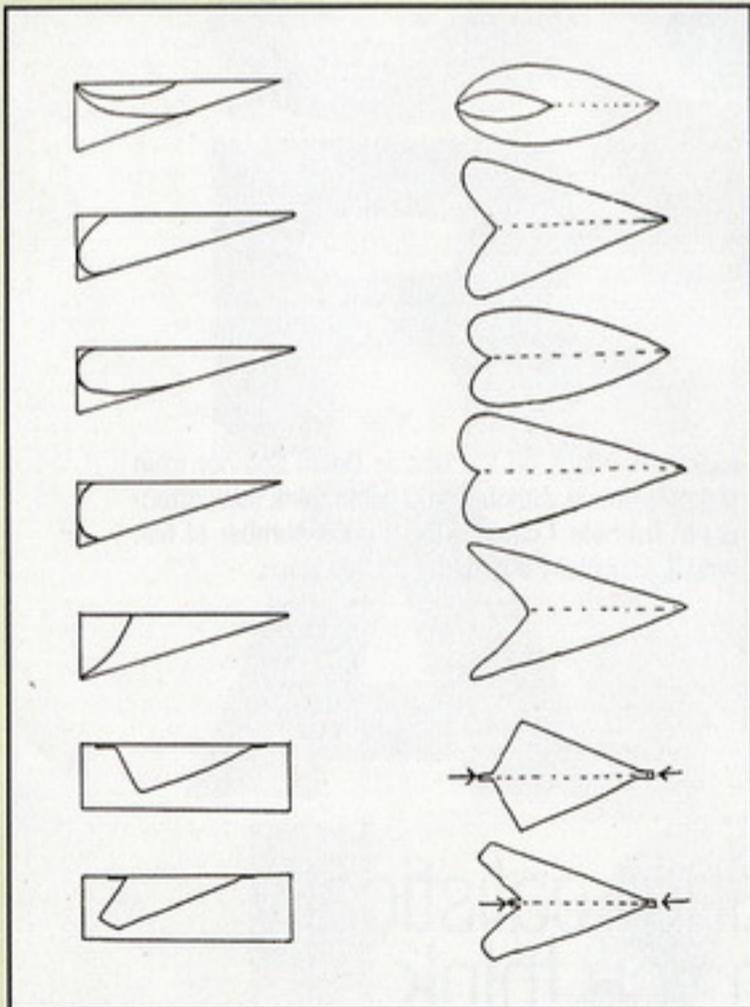
TYING PHOTOS BY HANS VAN KLINKEN,
RUDY VAN DUJNHOFEN, AND STEVE THORNTON.



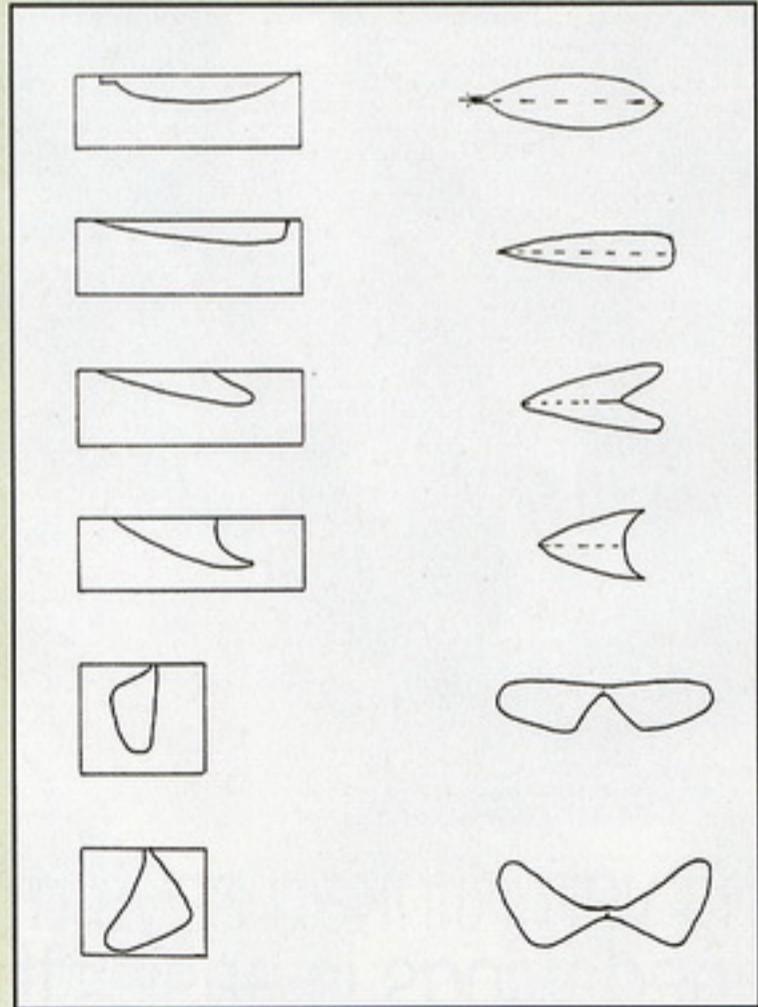
Dick Nelson, an innovative American tier, developed a simple method for shaping mayfly wings using sheet material. Fold a rectangular piece of material so that it is equal to the length of the hook shank (top illustration). Cut the wing so that the length is about three-quarters the length of the shank. Slip the shaped wings up from the bottom of the hook and tie in place (bottom illustration).



Shaping basic caddisfly wings is easy. Fold a triangular piece of sheet material in half to create the tent-shaped wings. Clip off the tip of the triangle, and tie the wings to the top of the fly.



There are many options for shaping caddisfly wings. These are some of the author's favorites.



Experiment creating various wing shapes to tie caddisflies, mayflies, stoneflies, and more. These are more shapes the author uses to tie a wide variety of patterns.

Although I prefer using mostly natural and synthetic hair materials as wings on my flies, I have also learned how to construct wings using various synthetic sheet materials. I get a lot of questions about these ingredients from the participants at my workshops, so over the years, I have collected a few special folding and cutting techniques that I use in my classes. I must confess, however, that some of the techniques that I will describe are more the result of trying to hook fishermen than producing fish-catching flies. On the other hand, some of these techniques are very interesting and will increase your fly tying skills, especially when you combine synthetic with natural materials.

Synthetic winging materials are no longer looked on with suspicion; they appeal to creative fly tiers eager to experiment with new patterns. The range of flexible wing sheeting has never been greater. Most synthetic and realistic-looking wing materials, however, are somewhat expensive and are highly affected by the influences of ultraviolet light. The majority of the samples of sheet materials that I have collected over the years easily fray or curl once they have been cut to shape, and many are not very durable. Intense casting also has a lot of impact on the shape of the wings, and some flies have stayed in my fly box without ever being touched yet their wings have been changed by time.

I like only sheet wing materials that are extremely durable and easy to use. I want materials that do not fray, and I want to be able to mark them using waterproof pens. I must be able to produce a reasonable replica of the natural wings of an insect, and the finished fly must retain good floating properties, so it is important that the wing material has a low specific gravity and does not absorb water. A couple of the best materials I know are woven sheets called Wonder Wing and Web Wing.

Making Wings Is Easy

As you will discover, the cutting technique is very simple. When using these sheets, it is important to cut and fold the woven pattern in the material in the same direction. For a set of caddisfly wings, cut out a three-cornered piece of material, fold it down in the middle, and then clip it to match the shape of real wings. (Refer to the diagram showing a collection of caddis wings for ideas about making wings for your flies.) You may draw veins or other markings using waterproof pens.

Check out the two sets of wings at the bottom of the illustration of caddisfly wings; these wings have



I make the wing on the Para Poly Sedge, an adult caddisfly imitation, using polypropylene yarn. Although it doesn't feature a cut-out wing, it is my best all-round sedge imitation, mainly because of the extreme durability of the wing material.



The wings on this spinner are made from organza using a wing burner, but you could also trim them to shape using sharp scissors.



England's Steve Thornton created this spinner using cut wings.



Hosa Sedge

Hook: Daiichi 1280, sizes 14 to 10.
 Thread: Gray 8/0 (70 denier).
 Body: Light tan polypropylene dubbing.
 Rib: Light ginger saddle hackle.
 Wing: Wonderwing or a similar sheet material cut to shape.
 Hackle: Light ginger.
 Antennae: Two black Chinese boar fibers.



D.N. Upwing Sedge

Hook: Daiichi 1280, size 14 or 12.
 Thread: Gray 8/0 (70 denier).
 Body: Light tan polypropylene dubbing.
 Hackle: Brown.
 Wing: Wonderwing or a similar sheet material cut to shape.



Study the tent-shaped wings on this adult caddisfly. You have many options for creating them using sheet wing materials.

Mayflies are some of the most beautiful creatures in nature. Dick Nelson developed a method for imitating mayfly wings using sheet wing material.



two small stubs for tying to the fly. Tie the first stub, marked "A," to the end of the hook shank before making the body. Next, pull the wing forward over the top of the body, tie it in place, and complete the fly. A fly tied this way will always land perfectly on the water, float far better, and appear appetizing to the fish. I learned this awesome technique from my very special American friend, Dick Nelson.

Dick Nelson's Winging Technique

Dick designed the famous Aztec fly in 1976. His special Bonefish Killer, although designed for Christmas Island, has caught more fish than the Gotcha and Crazy Charlie at many locations around the world. Dick also developed a great method for fashioning the wings on mayflies.

To make mayfly wings, fold a rectangular piece of sheet wing material in half. (Refer to the accompanying diagram for ideas. Dick was kind enough to allow me to use it.) Clip the wings to shape, leaving a small piece of material on the bottom front edge. Slip the wings onto the hook from the bottom and tie in place.

You can use many modern winging materials for making more than the wings on dry flies. These ingredients are great for making the backs on shrimps and stonefly nymphs. Instead of clipping out a three-cornered piece of material as when making caddisfly wings, fold a small rectangle in half, trim the edges to shape, and then unfold to reveal the shrimp or nymph back. This method is easier than shaping each side of the back separately.

Casting a mayfly pattern with clipped wings without twisting the leader is sometimes difficult. The wings in Dick's accompanying diagram minimize this problem because they are tied on the bottom of the hook and folded up with the shank between them. It is really fun to make these flies because they are one of the few mayflies that I tie with sheet wings that really work. They look very good on flies and are fine representations of real mayfly wings.

All the accompanying patterns feature a combination of synthetic and natural materials and float exceptionally. This makes them quite successful in fast-running water. You also dress these patterns in larger sizes for catching salmon.

Hans van Klinken lives in the Netherlands and travels the world in search of good fishing. To learn more about his flies and adventures, go to his website, www.flyfishinggazette.com.



Use metal wing burners for shaping wings using Medallion Sheetwing and similar cellophane materials. These burners are manufactured by J:son, a Swedish company, and they are widely distributed throughout the United States. Simply grasp a piece of material in the burner and melt the edges with a cigarette lighter.



Your local fly shop will have sheet winging material; it comes under several brand names, so ask what they have in stock. Visit your local craft store for organza ribbon, an inexpensive and useful alternative.



If you get really serious about making shaped wings, you might want to check out River Road Creations Wing Cutters. This company offers cutters to make a wide variety of wings and much more. To learn more, check out the manufacturer's website, www.riverroadcreations.com.

MIRAMICHI

Spring Fling

*Whether you are a neophyte or old hand at fishing for Atlantic salmon, your best odds of hooking into *Salmo salar* are in the spring. Fill your fly box with Larry Antonuk's favorite early season patterns and get ready for some of the best angling action of the year.*

When it comes to making a list of fabled North American salmon rivers, it's hard to argue that New Brunswick's Miramichi would be at or near the top. The river meanders for more than 150 miles from its headwaters near the Maine border to the city of Miramichi, where it enters the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Long a treasured destination of fishermen from around the world, due to its location, the Mighty Miramichi is especially dear to East Coast and New England anglers.

LARRY ANTONUK





Classic—and classically inspired—patterns are the ticket to enjoying fast spring salmon-fishing action.



MIRAMICHI SPECIAL

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Embossed silver tinsel.

Rib: Oval silver tinsel.

Throat: White calftail.

Wing: Red bucktail, yellow bucktail, and brown bucktail dyed yellow. All three segments are equal in size.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: The tricolor wing gives this fly a fairly ornate appearance, but tying it is quite straightforward.



RED EAGLE

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Tag: Oval gold tinsel.

Body: Red floss.

Rib: Oval gold tinsel.

Wing: Yellow bucktail.

Note: The single-color bucktail wing is often tied smaller than a multicolor wing, producing a fly that sinks more quickly.

Saying that you fish the Miramichi is sort of like saying you have a brother-in-law in California. Sure, but just exactly where? In the case of the Miramichi, there are dozens of outstanding fishing areas sprinkled along the river. The mouth of the river even supports a run of striped bass. In spite of all this opportunity, it's also hard to argue that one of the more common destinations is Doaktown, which lies about halfway between Fredricton and the city of Miramichi on the Southwest Miramichi River. Doaktown provides easy access to the spring, summer, and fall runs of salmon via an accessible boat landing, ample guides, and a variety of accommodations ranging from simple motels to full-featured fishing resorts.

COLD WEATHER—HOT REWARDS

While there are no hard-and-fast rules about what flies to use, there are a few general guidelines. (Of course, fishermen who ignore these guidelines are often the most successful; showing the salmon something that is a bit different from what the rest of the crowd is using is often a good idea.) Spring fishing, done in the middle of April amongst ice floes and the occasional snowstorm, is traditionally done with large streamers and wet flies using sinking lines. Summer is the time of hopeful dry fly fishing, with the occasional drop-back position of using a wet fly on a floating line. And fall leans heavily to the traditional orange autumn flies—the General Practitioner, Ally's Shrimp, and really anything that's super colorful.

Fishing in the spring, when the hungry winter-over salmon are heading back to sea, can be extremely busy. Anglers who brave the cold weather are often rewarded with stunning days of fishing; of course, they are also gambling that the ice will be off the river by the time they arrive. Summer and fall fishermen, on the other hand, are rewarded with nice temperatures and good scenery,

but they need to work much harder to connect with any salmon. This is where the phrase, "days of 1,000 casts," came from. In other words, while spring salmon fishing is not for the faint of heart, it's certainly the place to start; you can catch the most fish in the shortest period of time, and then expand to summer and fall fishing when it's convenient.

Due to the high, fast, and cold water, about 98 percent of all spring fishing is done from a small boat in the company of your mandatory guide. Sinking lines are required. In contrast, summer and fall fishing are done using conventional wading methods and a more liberal rule of three clients per guide. Spring guiding is often a combination of guiding and chauffeuring: your guide will pick you up at the landing in his boat, providing the day's transportation, and offer his best advice on where to fish.

LIVING TRADITION

In terms of tradition, spring flies are the most historically accurate. While the design of the summer and fall patterns tends to reflect the modern worlds of dry fly and steelhead fishing, it's fairly easy to trace the progression of spring salmon flies from their origins in England and Scotland.

The hook-based components of these flies—tips, tags, bodies, ribs, and throats—are fairly similar to the classics, but the wings on the New England versions are markedly different. This distinction is a result of simple geography. When the salmon fishermen arrived in the New World, they transported their English and Scottish fishing techniques to the coasts of America and Canada. When they ran out of flies, they found a distinct shortage of exotic feathers; they had no bustard, chattering, macaw, or Asian pheasant. Being resourceful, they used whatever was at hand: black bear, deer, squirrel, turkey, and even polar bear. They dyed all these materials to produce something as close



RENOUS SPECIAL

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Bright red 6/0 (140 denier).

Tag: Oval silver tinsel.

Tip: Red floss.

Tail: Lime green bucktail.

Body: Medium green floss.

Rib: Oval silver tinsel.

Throat: Yellow bucktail.

Wing: Lime green and yellow bucktail.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: A more recent classic pattern, this fly is named for the Renous River, which is a tributary of the Miramichi.



COCK ROBIN

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Tag: Oval gold tinsel.

Body: Rear half, yellow wool; front half, red wool.

Rib: Oval gold tinsel.

Throat: White calftail.

Wing: Hot orange and white bucktail.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: This traditional pattern exists almost exclusively along the Miramichi. It is very well known in the Doaktown area.



GOLDEN EAGLE

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Tag: Oval gold tinsel.

Butt: Black ostrich herl.

Body: Embossed gold tinsel.

Rib: Oval gold tinsel.

Wing: Yellow bucktail.

Note: A cousin to the Red Eagle, this fly adds the black ostrich herl butt that is common on the traditional classics.

to the original colors as possible. To their probable surprise, they discovered that a six-strip married swan wing wasn't needed to fool salmon after all. The New World fishermen found that hair-wing flies were just as effective and actually more durable than the original patterns. These days, it's hard to find an East Coast salmon fly that doesn't contain at least a couple different colors of bucktail, and feather-wing patterns are seen almost nowhere.

Over the years, West Coast steelhead patterns began influencing hair-wing Atlantic salmon flies. Autumn salmon fishermen began using steelhead patterns in the early 1990s, and they eventually became the flies of choice for many anglers in the spring. Recently, modified Rangeley-style streamers have shown up on the scene. The current state of patterns used on the Miramichi is a melting pot of the flies visiting anglers bring to the river.

Of course, tying your own patterns brings a special element to a fishing trip, especially when you consider the cost of buying flies. Spring flies often go for five dollars or more apiece, so filling up a box with your own handiwork before a trip makes a lot of sense. Since the bodies of these flies are basically the same as on the old Scottish patterns, spring flies are also an excellent entry point to tying classic salmon patterns. Once you've tied a couple dozen spring patterns, you'll have the body work down pat and can slide into learning how to make the fancier married wings as time and money permit.

BLACK GHOST

Hook: 3/0- to 5/0-long streamer hook, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Tag: Oval silver tinsel. (Flat tinsel on larger sizes.)

Tail: Yellow calftail.

Body: Black floss.

Rib: Oval silver tinsel.

Throat: Yellow calftail.

Wing: White bucktail and pearl UV Krystal Flash.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: This fly migrated north from the Rangeley Lakes region of Maine, probably in the early 1920s. It remains basically unchanged since the first version tied by Herb Welch. Rather than a traditional feather wing, modern fishermen prefer a white bucktail wing, but it is also seen with marabou and polar bear.

FIND A LOCAL TIER

Checking with a local tier is the best way to get accurate information about regional patterns; if that person ties for the local fly shop, so much the better. And if he happens to be an active guide, that's better still. In the case of Doaktown, you'll find all of these in a man named Dickie Storey.

Dickie produces all his flies in a small shed just behind his house. Unlike most

tiers, Dickie got involved in fishing late in life. In the spring of 1979 (at the age of 26), he purchased a Thompson Model F vise (cast iron with a red handle) from Jerry Doak at the local fly shop. In the early 1980s, following a months-long evaluation period with Jerry and the tiers at the famed shop called W.W. Doak, Dickie started trading his flies for materials. After many iterations, his smelt patterns finally passed muster, and he tied spring patterns and Bombers for the next seven years. At that point, Dickie started a small tackle shop and ran that for the next 10 years, and then switched to full-time guiding. Dickie considers most of his tying at just the hobbyist level, or at best to provide flies to his clients and friends. He was able to provide a wealth of information about local patterns and a number of tips concerning how to tie them.

TIPS FOR TYING SPRING SALMON FLIES

Start with a quality hook. Using a robust hook is important because the fish are likely large, and a "heavy iron" helps get the fly down deep in the fast water. Hooks for fishing in the spring range from sizes 1 to 3/0; size 1/0 is comfortable for most fly boxes.

Make your flies broad but sparse; the wings should flare up to produce high profiles. These fish are hungry, so bigger flies are better, but don't introduce too much bulk or they won't sink so quickly and be easy to cast. This sounds like a contradiction, so if you're not sure, err on the side of sparseness.

In terms of tying traditional patterns, there are no new techniques; just follow the age-old methods for making tips, tags, tails, and bodies. At a minimum, explore the concept of tying an underbody. This component is usually several layers of white rayon floss, and today's salmon fly tiers often use serger thread, which you will find in sewing stores. Build the



MERCURY ISLAND KILLER

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Silver tinsel.

Rib: Oval tinsel.

Wing: Three or four wraps of white marabou followed by four strands pearl Krystal Flash, and then five to seven wraps of olive marabou.

Shoulder: Fluorescent green/yellow mallard flank feather.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: This fly is the top pattern in Dickie Storey's fly box. It always catches salmon in the spring. The shoulder on this and other marabou flies helps keep the marabou splayed out above and below the fly, creating a big profile without much bulk.



SUTTER POND SPECIAL

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Green Diamond Braid.

Wing: Five to seven wraps of olive marabou with four strands of red and green Flashabou on each side.

Shoulder: Yellow guinea hen.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: Perhaps the simplest of the new patterns, the Sutter Pond Special features tried-and-true olive with just a slight bit of Flashabou enhancement.



GOLDEN GINGER STREAMER

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

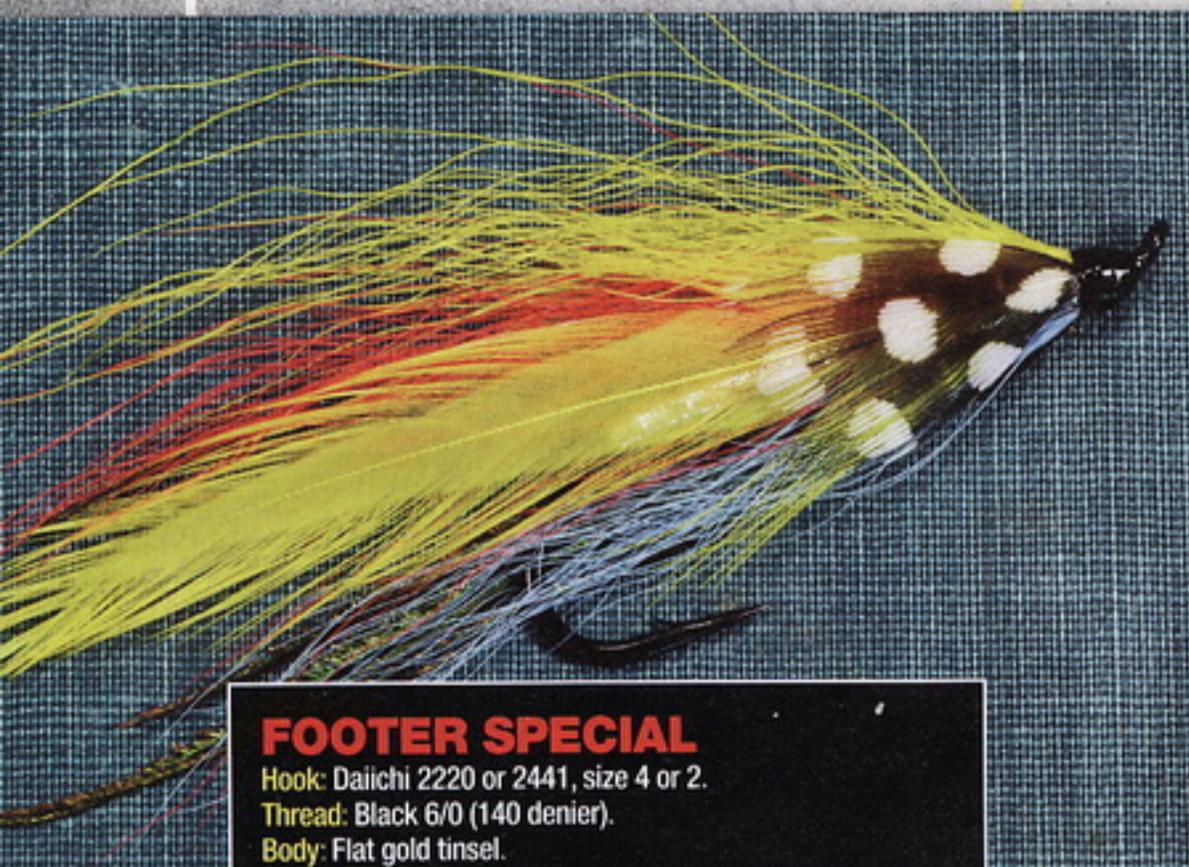
Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Silver Diamond Braid.

Wing: Three or four wraps white marabou, followed by multi color Krystal Flash, and then three or four wraps of ginger and five to seven wraps of golden olive marabou.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Note: The originator of this fly is unknown, but it came into the region with the original wave of steelhead flies. While slightly more complicated to tie than the other marabou flies, it is worth the extra effort.



FOOTER SPECIAL

Hook: Daiichi 2220 or 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Flat gold tinsel.

Throat: Blue bucktail and four to six strands of peacock herl.

Wing: Red bucktail, over which is sparse yellow bucktail, over which are two yellow hackles.

Shoulders: Guinea fowl.

Head: Black.

Note: Maine artist and taxidermist David Footer originated this pattern as a brook trout fly. It is thought to have come to the Doaktown area around the year 2000. Most tiers have abandoned the normal streamer hook and tie it on a more robust salmon hook.

underbody into the shape of a carrot or cigar, and then wrap the floss body. The white underbody provides a good background for the colored floss and creates a much more attractive fly, certainly to the angler and hopefully to the fish as well. As a bonus, when you're using a looped-eye hook such as the Daiichi 2441, the underbody provides a smooth transition from the end of the loop, eliminating the unsightly bump in the body material.

Make these flies using normal hair-wing tying methods, with a couple of small twists. First, when tying a bundle of bucktail to the hook, don't lay it directly on top of the shank. Instead, hold it about an 1/8 inch above the shank, and bring the tying thread over the top of the bundle. Next, rather than going down and around the hook, pass the bobbin holder between the bundle of hair and the shank; then go over the top of the bundle again. This method produces a single wrap of thread around the bundle of hair. Lay the bundle on the shank, tighten the thread, and make a few more thread wraps. Increase the tension as you add wraps. Repeating these steps as you add bundles of bucktail to the wing keeps each color of separate.

Second, apply a drop of head cement to the bucktail before tightening the thread wraps. The cement softens the bucktail, allowing the thread to bite into it more deeply. And, of course, the cement penetrates through the front of the wing, making it practically bulletproof.

In terms of tying difficulty, think of making a Mickey Finn with a slightly fancier body; this is the equivalent of the most complex spring salmon fly, which means that most tiers will have no problem making any of the Miramichi patterns.

WORKING WITH MARABOU

Modern marabou salmon flies—the Sutter Pond Special, Golden Ginger Streamer, and others—are even easier to tie. Wrapping

the marabou like a hackle is perhaps the trickiest thing to learn; if it's making you crazy, just moisten the feather fibers. In terms of the marabou-bodied flies, Dickie Storey's method is pretty straightforward. Simply tie the body, stopping about one-third of the way from the hook eye; the color of the body is important, even if you can't see it after wrapping the marabou. Tie on the butt end of the marabou where it becomes less bulky and more flexible, and wrap the feather forward. Stroke back the fibers between each wrap to prevent binding them down and so they do not bunch together on one side of the hook. When wrapped correctly, each marabou fiber radiates out from the shank. The number of wraps of marabou is dictated by the desired sparseness or fullness of the fly, as well as by the quality of your feathers. A good rule of thumb is to make no fewer than three and no more than seven wraps.

Canadian tradition insists that your flies have jungle cock cheeks, but many very successful patterns lack these feathers; use this expensive ingredient at your discretion. Put a hearty head finish on your flies, and the job's done.

Fishing the Miramichi in the spring is an excellent introduction to the wonders of Canadian salmon fishing. The fishing takes a certain amount of persistence, but not an overly large amount of skill. It can produce high rewards for those willing to gamble on the ice floes and brave the weather. For most New Englanders, it's a great destination that is accessible by automobile. Today you need a passport to travel back and forth across the Canadian border, and you must hire a guide, but you no longer have to let the expense of a full fly box hold you back.

Larry Antonuk is a longtime friend to this magazine. Larry is a talented tier and teacher. He is also a fly tying historian who occasionally unearths unusual collections of patterns. Larry lives in New Hampshire.



MIRAMICHI BRIDE

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Tag: Gold oval tinsel.

Tail: Lime green bucktail.

Body: Pink floss.

Rib: Flat gold tinsel.

Wing: Lime green bucktail and pearl Krystal Flash.

Throat: Orange calftail.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Head: Light olive.

Note: Originally tied as a commemorative wedding fly by Dickie Storey in 2010, the Miramichi Bride has gained popularity as a strong producer during the spring run.



GREEN SLIME

Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4 or 2.

Thread: Black 6/0 (140 denier).

Body: Purple Diamond Braid.

Wing: Two or three fluorescent lime green marabou feathers and strands of fluorescent chartreuse Krystal Flash on each side.

Head: Fire orange.

Note: The originator of the Green Slime is lost in the annals of time, but the fly probably migrated to the Miramichi region in the early 1990s. Dickie Storey simplified and modified the pattern. He attributes the success of this version mainly to the purple Diamond Braid body.



Although they are ancient organisms, mayflies are some of the most beautiful creatures in nature.

The Lavender

Nadica and Igor Stancev, two of Europe's most inventive pattern designers, describe one of the flies they "don't talk about." Add this pattern to your fly box and enjoy fishing success.

DURING THE SUMMER, FLY FISHERMEN usually avoid the hottest middle part of the day; instead, they place their hopes on fishing during the morning and early evening. Although we see few large mayflies, such as *Ephemera danica*, hatching on the water, there are many other smaller mayflies that are worth imitating. The spinners are especially important because the duns hatch in the afternoon and return to the river before dusk.

After hatching, pale-olive duns molt into amber-colored spinners, mid-olive duns turn into orange spinners, and dark-olive spinners have a rusty color. Although there are numerous successful patterns that match these insects, the end of summer, with its low and clear water, is a real challenge for fly fishermen. In these water conditions, the trout have an opportunity to inspect flies more closely and they can easily notice the imperfections in our imitations.



How to Select Cul de Canard

Choosing the right cul de canard feather will make tying the Lavender much easier. The feather should be small with a thin quill, like the one on the left. If you have only larger feathers with thicker quills, use their tips. We have clipped the tip from the feather on the far right; we will tie the Lavender using this tip.

Tying the Lavender

1 Start the thread on the hook. Tie the cul de canard feather to the hook at a 90-degree angle to the shank using a series of crossing wraps.

2 Tie the bare quill end of the feather to the shank in the thorax area of the fly.

3 Spin a pinch of dubbing on the thread. Spread the dubbing so it is slightly thicker closer to the hook shank; this distribution will result in a nicely tapered body.

4 Wrap the dubbing down the hook shank to form the body of the fly.

5 Spiral-wrap the bare thread up the hook to make the rib. The rib keeps the body compact when fishing the fly.

6 Clip a small piece of Angel Hair or similar ingredient for the wing. Tie the material to the top of the hook; place the thread wraps in the middle of the bunch.

7 Fold the Angel Hair back to make the wing. Secure the wing in place using firm thread wraps.

8 Wrap the cul de canard feather twice around the hook in front of the thread. Wrap the thread through the wrapped CDC like a rib. Tie off and clip the remaining piece of feather. Whip-finish and snip the thread. Fold the wing and CDC forward together over the hook eye and trim them even.



This female *Paraleptophlebia cincta* spinner lives on fast, clean rivers. It hatches from the beginning of May to the end of August. Note the brownish body and glossy purple wings. (The full purplish tint is a little difficult to see in this photo.) Anglers call this insect the purple dun. When we see it and similar-looking mayflies on the water, we tie on the Lavender. (Bottom photo) This is a rare underwater photo of a female *Baetis* spinner laying eggs on a stone. This insect is easy food for the fish.



Lavender

Hook: Tiemco TMC531 or a similar hook, sizes 18 to 12.

Thread: Yellow 12/0 or a similar ultra-fine thread.

Body: Golden brown Ice Dubbing.

Rib: Tying thread.

Wing: Lavender Angel Hair or a similar sparkly wing material.

Legs: Cul de canard.



During this time of the season, when most fishing is reduced to an hour or so in the morning and an hour before sunset, we recommend a pattern called the Lavender.

The Lavender is an extremely effective fly; we know this to be true from our personal experience on the water and from the positive feedback we receive from our fishing friends and customers. One year, a fly shop in Bologna, Italy, ordered 25 Lavenders, but the next season it ordered 400! At first we thought this new order was a mistake, but learned that the fly performed well for catching both trout and grayling.

We participate in fly fairs in France, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries. Wherever we travel, anglers ask about the Lavender. In addition to catching trout and grayling in rivers, it is also a fine lake fly. According to one report, the pattern has worked well even on a mountain lake high in the Austrian Alps.

Doing Our Research

The river where we spend most of our time fishing and testing flies flows into a man-made lake. The wild brown trout in this river are not too difficult to catch during May and June, but in July and August, when the water is extremely low and clear, the fishing becomes far more difficult. Although there are still a few trout to catch, we now spend most of our time collecting insects for photography. The photos of these insects help us design better flies.

During the summer, when we are collecting insects from the stream, we often see small *Baetis* females laying their eggs. Their bodies are colored amber to reddish brown. All of these spinners have glossy, violet-purple-tinted wings. We tested a few patterns that could imitate these egg-laying spinners and discovered that the best imitation is tied using golden brown Ice Dubbing for the body and pale-violet sparkle fibers for the wings. We used brown partridge fibers or cul de canard for the legs.

At the beginning of August about 10 years ago, we used many different flies with mixed results. Next, we tried our Lavender and enjoyed astonishing success. The fish in our local river are shy—they see few anglers and spook easily—but in about five hours, we each caught more than 50 brown trout. Unfortunately, the day came to an end and we had to return home, but it was an unforgettable experience. The Lavender seemed almost magical when fished on the surface or as a wet fly in the surface film;

used deeper, it acted as a fish magnet. We thought we had a lucky experience, but as the end of the trout season approached and the fish became less aggressive and more shy, the Lavender remained our best pattern.

What Does It Imitate?

Although we think the Lavender looks like a *Baetis* spinner, it might also be a good imitation of a few other insects the trout see. This fly can represent different naturals in various stages of development. For example, it is a great emerger and behaves like an adult going to the surface to emerge from its nymph shuck. The Lavender might also remind trout of a crippled mayfly. Sometimes a real mayfly becomes trapped on the surface: one or more legs cannot be released from its nymph skin, or a wing becomes stuck on the film.

We use cul de canard fibers for the legs and reduce the numbers of fibers for flies we intend to fish in shallow water. The Lavender has no tail; we haven't noticed that the absence of a tail on this pattern is of importance to the fish. Besides the sparkly, semitransparent body of Ice Dubbing, the sparkle in the pale-violet wing could be an important trigger.

According to the theory of colors, warm colors are red through yellow, including browns; cool colors are blue and green through blue violet. It is said that warm colors arouse or stimulate the viewer (for example, red and orange are often used to attract a fish's attention), while cool colors are calming and relaxing.

Some species of fish can see the ultraviolet end of the light spectrum. Fish sometimes use their sense of ultraviolet vision to locate food. For example, juvenile brown trout living in shallow water use ultraviolet vision to detect zooplankton. As they get older, they move to deeper waters where there is little ultraviolet light.

Can we really explain everything about successful fly fishing? If we try to make fly fishing an exact science, it would probably lose some of its magic and charm. No matter how hard we try to have the right fly for every situation, the fish give the final judgment. In the case of the Lavender, the trout have ruled in our favor many times. 🍷

Igor and Nadica Stancev are two of Europe's leading designers of realistic fishing flies. They live in Macedonia. To see more of their great patterns, check out their website, www.fishingflies.com.mk.

The Tuscan Bunny

It's said that some flies are tied to catch fish, and others to catch the fishermen. Drew Chicone says, "There's no doubt about it: This crazy-looking pattern is designed to catch fish—tie it, use it, and hold on tight!"

THE PECULIAR-LOOKING

Tuscan Bunny is tied to catch fish—lots of fish. Although the jagged and asymmetrical head is not much to look at, like the rest of the elements of this the fly, it is there by design. At first glance, the pattern's modest list of materials and simple construction may be mistaken for a hastily thrown together mess of fur and foam; however, the Tuscan Bunny, which evolved over the past three years, is a culmination of careful thought and experimentation with materials and tying techniques. It takes thousands of casts, hundreds of refusals, and countless hours of testing and tweaking to transform a mélange of natural and synthetic materials into a reliably productive fly.

The target species of the Tuscan Bunny are ambush feeders with an upward-facing morphology whose eyes are positioned closer to the tops of their heads, such as tarpon and snook. The position of their eyes makes it easier for them to see prey at eye level or overhead in the water column. When the fish are looking up for food, a fly tied using darker colors that silhouette against a light sky is easier for them to see

and increases your chances for a strike.

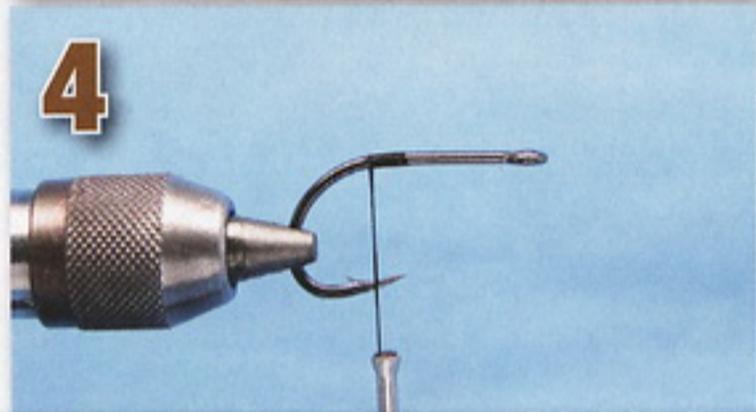
Wrestling these saltwater bruisers requires a pattern with a stout hook that does not straighten easily, soft yet durable materials that move effortlessly in the water, and last but not least, something to keep it all suspended just under the surface. Oh yeah, did I mention it also needs to have good swimming action, it can't become waterlogged or land with a heavy *splat*, and the materials shouldn't foul around the hook? This sounds like a tall order, but you can accomplish this by combining a few familiar materials with some bizarre tying techniques.

Fish the Tuscan Bunny with long, slow strips, and occasionally waggle the tip of your rod. You will discover that even the most persnickety eaters find this rabbit-and-foam recipe irresistible.

Drew Chicone is an author, photographer, fly designer, lecturer, and instructor. He is also an FFF Certified Casting Instructor and commercial fly tier. Be sure to read his terrific book, Featherbrain: Developing, Testing & Improving Saltwater Fly Patterns. And sign up to receive Drew's free e-newsletter at his website, www.saltyflytying.com.



The Tuscan Bunny is a great flats fly. This nice redfish fell prey to its enticing action.



Making the Tail of the Tuscan Bunny



1 Cut a 2-inch-long piece of magnum rabbit Zonker strip. If you use a narrower strip, the tail might break off after only a few casts; the extra width increases the durability of the fly.

2 Poke a hole about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the front end of the strip.

3 Remove the bodkin and immediately slide a 3- to 4-inch-long piece of 20-pound-test monofilament into the hole.

4 Start the thread opposite the hook point and wrap to the end of the shank; the thread is now hanging between the point and barb.

5 Tie the end of the monofilament to the hook; the rabbit hair should be pointing backwards, and the monofilament is directly on the top of the shank and curving slightly up.

6 Tie the tip of the Zonker strip to the hook using firm thread wraps. Center the strip directly on top of the hook.

7 Pull the long tag end of the monofilament over the top of the Zonker strip. Tie the looped end of mono on top of the hook shank.

8 Clip off the remaining tag end of the monofilament. Now we'll turn our attention to making the body of the fly.



Tying the Bunny's Body



1 Clip another piece of magnum Zonker strip a little more than 2 inches long.

2 Spread the Zonker strip between your fingers.

3 Stroke the fur so it stands out from the hide. Place the fur (not the leather) in a bulldog clip.

4 The Zonker strip is in the clip. There should be a small gap between the leather hide and the edge of the clip.

5 Cut the leather from the Zonker strip.

DREW CHICONE

6 Make a large dubbing loop.

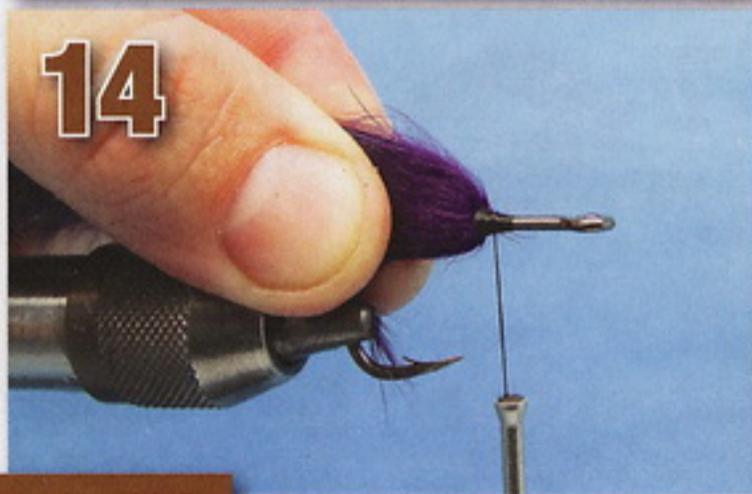
7 Grasp the end of the dubbing loop using a dubbing twister, crochet hook, or bent paper clip. *(Continued on next page)*

The author often targets tarpon using the Tuscan Bunny.

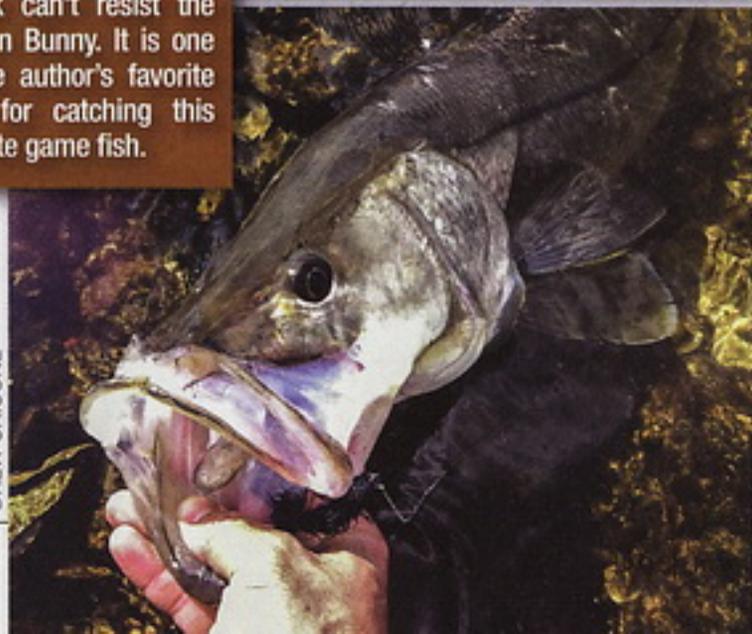




Tying the Bunny's Body (continued)



Snook can't resist the Tuscan Bunny. It is one of the author's favorite flies for catching this favorite game fish.



DREW CHICONE

8 Slide the bulldog clip between the two thread legs of the dubbing loop. Pull the loop tight to secure the hair. Carefully open the bulldog clip to release the fur, and remove the clip. Cut the butt ends of the hair approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch beyond the closed loop.

9 Spin the dubbing loop tight.

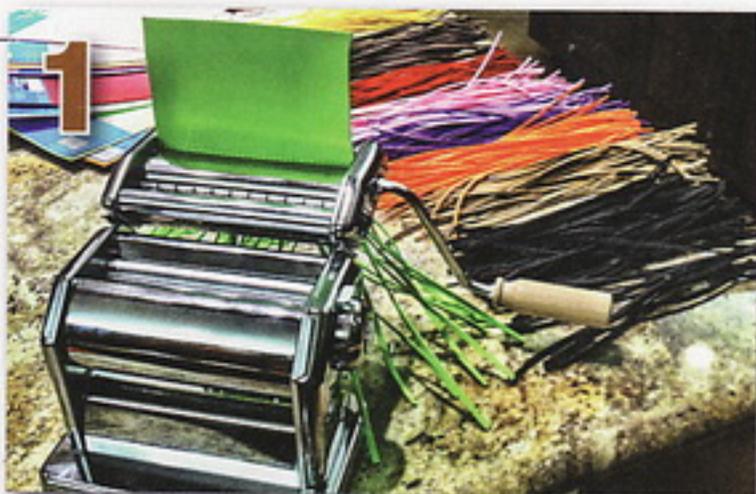
10 Here is the tightened loop before wrapping the body of the fly.

11 Start wrapping the body of the fly.

12 Brush back the fur after each new wrap.

13 We've made the last wrap of dubbing. There is ample space for the foam head of the fly.

14 Tie off and clip the excess bit of dubbing loop. Make five or six thread wraps over the front edge of the fur body. The body is done; now let's tie the head.



Adding the Foam Head



1 Cut a sheet of 4-millimeter-thick closed-cell foam into fine strips approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide. Make the strips as uniform as possible. You can use a metal ruler and razor blade, but it is far easier to run the sheet of foam through a pasta cutter!

2 Stack a dozen 1-inch-long pieces of foam into a pile. Tie the strips onto the hook like spinning deer hair. Start with two loose wraps, and then slowly tighten the thread. Warning: Do not overtighten the thread or you will cut through the foam.

3 Here is the foam tied to the hook. This is the most difficult part of tying the Tuscan Bunny, but you'll quickly master this step.

4 Weave the thread forward through the pieces of foam. The thread is now hanging behind the hook eye.

5 Whip-finish and snip the thread. We're almost done with our fly.

6 Trim the head of the fly into the shape of a tapered cone. Cut the bottom of the head flat to open the hook gap and ensure that the fly rides level in the water.

7 Here is our completed Tuscan Bunny. We've tied a dark version, but you may select any colors of materials you wish. The soft foam head convinces the fish that the fly is something good to eat; they are slow to spit it out, which gives you extra time to set the hook.



MATERIALS LIST

HOOK: Owner Flyliner or a similar saltwater hook, sizes 1/0 to 3/0.

THREAD: Black 210 Flat Waxed Nylon.

BODY: Purple rabbit fur clipped from a Zonker strip.

TAIL: Purple magnum Zonker strip and 20-pound-test hard monofilament.

HEAD: 4-millimeter-thick closed-cell foam.

NEW ENGLAND

is known for its freshwater fisheries teeming with big gamefish. Whether angling for trout, salmon, or bass, trolling with big flies can whet the appetite of even the most particular and elusive trophy-sized catch.

Since a fly that's trolled remains in the water for a longer period of a time, there is a greater possibility of getting a strike by being right there in the feeding zone. These large baitfish imitations can help locate gamefish in big water and can be a nice break from repeated casting. Also, trolling flies, though maybe not technically fly fishing, is an ideal option for when spring rivers are too frigid to enjoy long periods of wading. Advances in personal watercraft, such as better canoes and the introduction of kayaks, are also taking the experience to a new level.

We know really big fish take large patterns, but they can strike from the sides and at the heads of flies. Tandem-hook streamers increase the possibility of a hook-up because they have points in the front and rear.

Smelt, a type of baitfish, are one of the most important food sources for Northeast landlocked salmon and trout. Increases or declines in their population have a direct bearing on the amount of large fish found in a lake. Over the years anglers have come to understand the importance of using fly patterns that represent a profile and action that is similar to smelt, and they have adapted different color combinations specific to the water being fished.

There are also many effective patterns that represent baitfish such as shiners, dace, darters, various other minnows, and let's not forget imitations of small trout and perch. Some patterns are tied with hair, some with feather wings, and some with both materials. These double-hook flies can easily be created in different lengths and sizes by simply changing the sizes of the hooks and the length of the joining wire.

A BIT OF ANGLING HISTORY

J. Herbert Sanborn fashioned the first tandem-style hook while trolling for salmon and trout on Maine's Messalonskee Lake. After being frustrated by continuous short strikes, he got the idea of filing off the eye of one hook and attaching it to another. The result was a long-shank style streamer with two pointed hooks. He tied a few green and black saddle hackles and some white bucktail to his unique invention. Sanborn sent this new double-hooked fly out for a test run with a friend, Gene LeTourneau, who landed a four and three-quarter-pound brook trout with it. However, the pattern we now call the Nine-three was named for the weight of the first landlocked salmon Dr. Sanborn caught with it the following day. The Nine-three smelt pattern is still popular, and you will find it in the fly boxes of many New England anglers.

Sanborn was still disappointed with the hackle extending beyond the hook and short strikes were still a problem.

Gene's brother, Emile, came up with the idea of joining two hooks with wire or gut, with gut being the preferred material at the time. The rear hook could then extend to the end of the wing, resulting in more hook-ups. This invention spurred an interest in creating new streamer patterns as well as tying older classics in a new way.

One of my favorite sources for classic New England trolling patterns is *Trolling Flies for Trout & Salmon* by Dick Stewart and Bob Leeman. It is full of great old history and many fine patterns.

TIPS FOR TANDEM STREAMERS

Tying a classic tandem streamer doesn't require a lot of fancy equipment or specialized parts. All that's required are a few simple wet fly hooks and wire.

The most commonly used hooks are standard wet fly hooks such as the Mustad 3906 or 3906B; the later has a slightly longer shank. The front hook is usually one size larger than the trailing hook but you may use two hooks of the same size. Most often, the front hook is a size 4 and the trailing hook is size 6.

The wire used to join the two hooks is 30-pound-test, nylon coated, seven strand, stainless steel leader wire. You can find this in the tackle section of most sporting goods stores. And don't forget wire cutters; I purchased a small inexpensive pair that I keep just for tying tandems. You will also need a strong thread for assembling the hooks. I use Danville 210 Flymaster Plus but any heavy 3/0 thread will do the trick.

You probably already have a good tying adhesive; you'll use this to coat the thread wraps and weld the wire to the hook shanks. If you're really feeling creative, you can slip a few beads onto the wire before attaching the trailing hook to the front hook shank. I found a great variety pack of colored beads in the tackle department where I located the wire.

Depending on the length of your tandem fly, you'll need saddle hackles long enough to extend the full length of both hooks. The wings should reach just beyond the bend of the trailing hook. For the most part, any hair or peacock herl in the pattern should be the same length. If the pattern calls for bucktail, look for hair that is long, fine, and as straight as possible. Bucktail on these flies should be sparse. If a pattern calls for more than one color of bucktail, it's important to think of the total amount of hair you use on the fly. Using too much bucktail can turn your tandem belly-up.

There are no limits to the combinations of hackle, hair, and hooks that you can use to create these simple fish-catching flies. Grab your vise, your determination, and think big. Enjoy tying the Allagash Al.

Sharon E. Wright is a regular contributor to this magazine. A native of Maine, she is a serious student of her state's outdoor history. To learn more about tying tandem streamers, read her new book, Tying Heritage Feather-wing Streamers (Stackpole Books).



Tying In Tandem

A NEW ENGLAND TRADITION

Lakes have shed their frozen glaze, and the trout and landlocked salmon are coming alive. Sharon E. Wright shows how to tie flies for hot early-season fishing action.

TYING THE FIRST HALF OF THE BODY

1 Place the size 6 hook in the vise. Start the size 3/0 thread on the shank and wrap toward the bend.

2 Wrap the thread the full length of the shank to establish a good base. This will help hold the joining wire on the shank.

3 Spin your bobbin clockwise to increase the amount of twist in your thread. Spiral-wrap the thread toward the eye. The additional twist elevates the thread rib which will bite into the nylon coated wire.

4 Cut a 2 1/2- to 3-inch-long piece of wire. Insert the wire into the eye. We will tie on the wire the full length of the body.

5 Hold the wire against the underside of the hook. Make two or three soft wraps of thread to hold the wire in position. Next, advance the thread toward the bend, making firm, edge-to-edge wraps. Use a lot of tension so the thread bites into the nylon and forces the wire against the rib, securing everything in place.

6 I like turning the hook upside down for this step because it's easier to avoid catching the thread on the point as I wrap. Make a nicely tapered underbody where the wire ends at the bend. Advance the thread forward to the starting point.

7 Your underbody should be fairly smooth and have a nice gradual taper near the bend. Finish this step with a whip-finish or a few half-hitches, and snip the thread.

8 Coat the thread wraps with adhesive; this helps reinforce the joining wire. We'll finish things up after the adhesive dries.

9 After the adhesive dries, start the size 8/0 thread on the hook. We'll use this thread to finish this part of the fly.

10 Tie on the oval silver tinsel the full length of the body, wrapping the thread toward the hook bend.

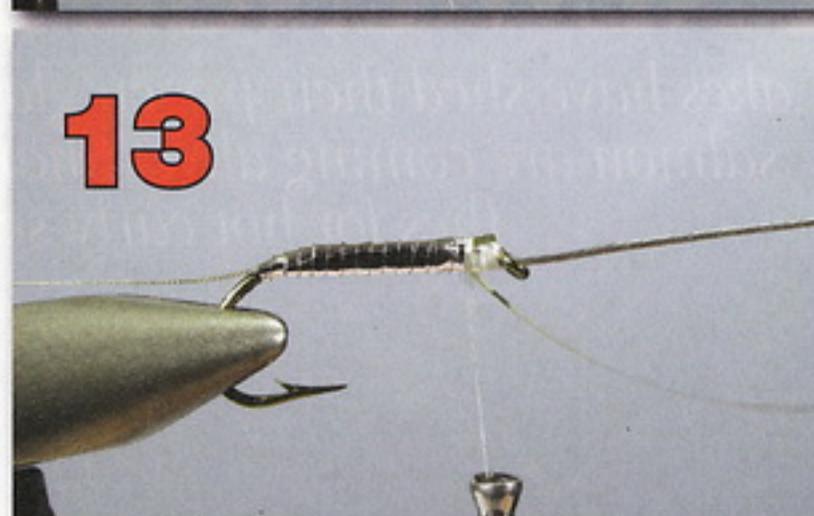
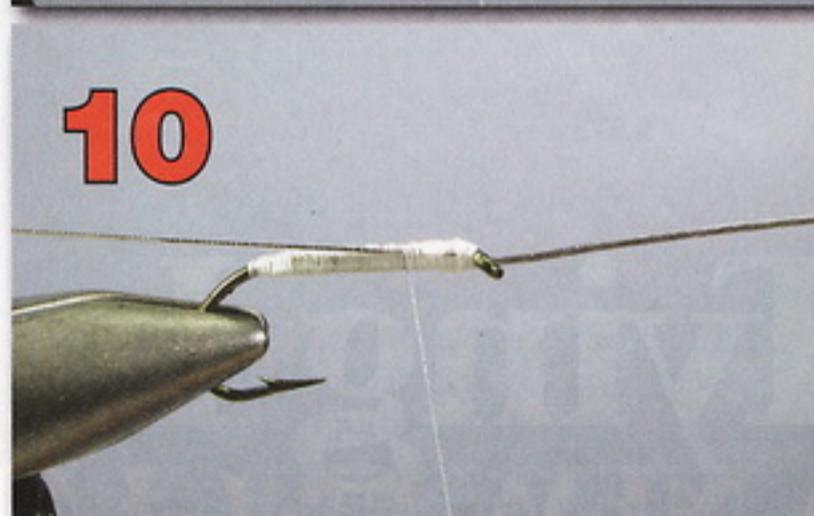
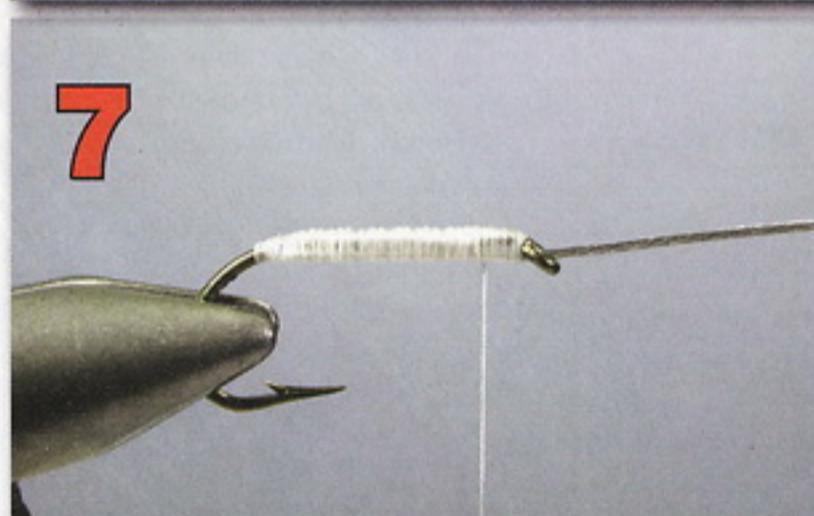
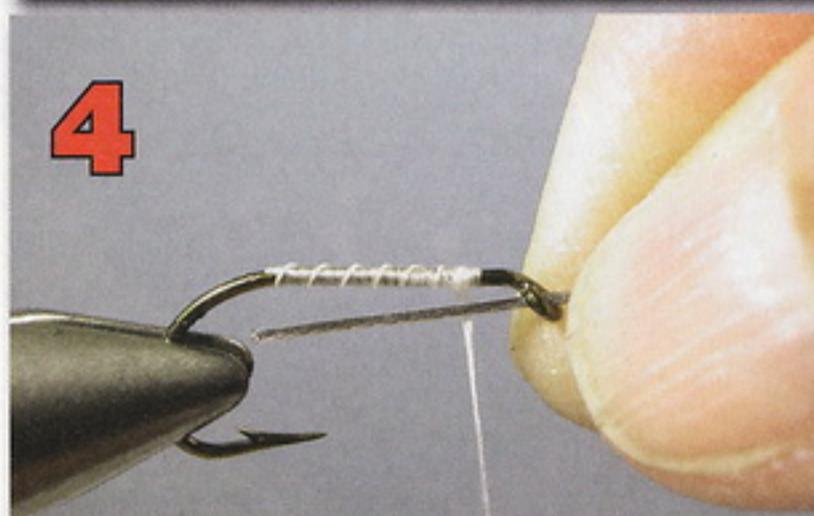
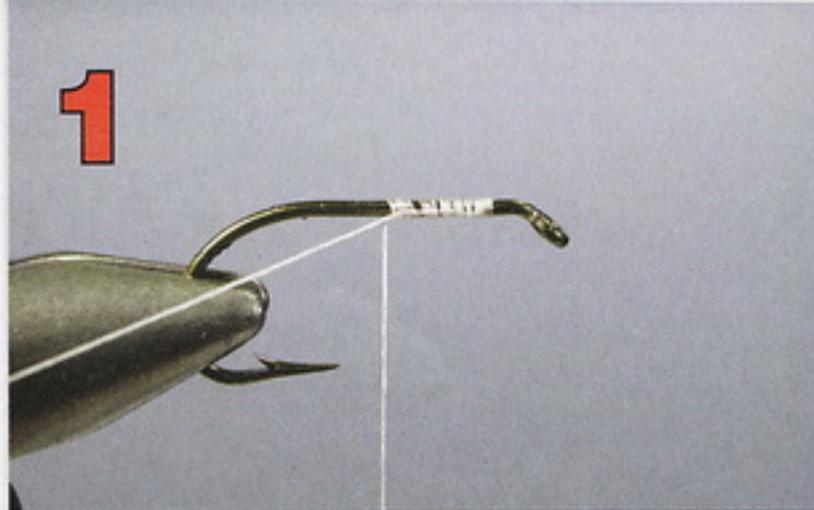
11 Wrap the thread back toward the hook eye, forming a smooth underbody. Spinning your bobbin counter-clockwise will flatten the thread, making this easier to accomplish.

12 Tie on the tinsel using a few firm thread wraps. The gold side of the tinsel is facing up; the material will fold over to expose the silver side when wrapping the body.

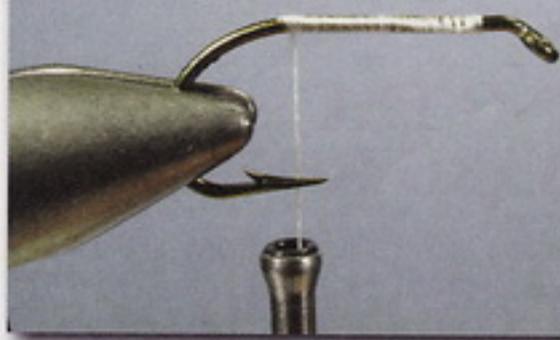
13 Wrap the tinsel toward the hook bend and then back toward the eye. Take your time; this step takes patience. Tie off and cut the excess tinsel.

14 Spiral-wrap the oval silver tinsel forward to form the rib. Tie off and clip the surplus.

15 Whip-finish or make a few half-hitches, and snip the thread. Apply adhesive to finish the head. Some tiers coat the entire tinsel body of the fly for durability. It looks like the trailing hook is complete. We're halfway there!



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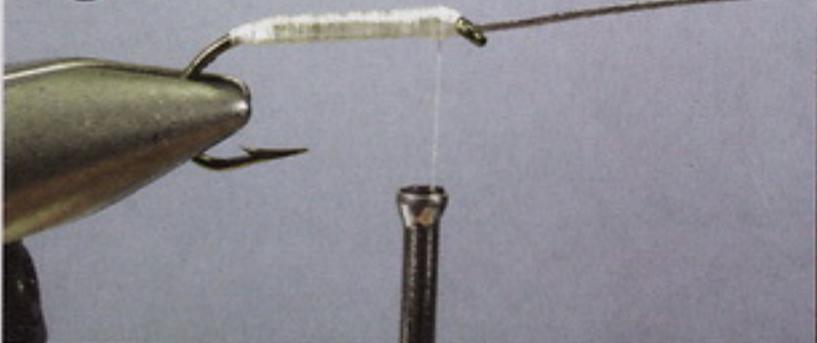
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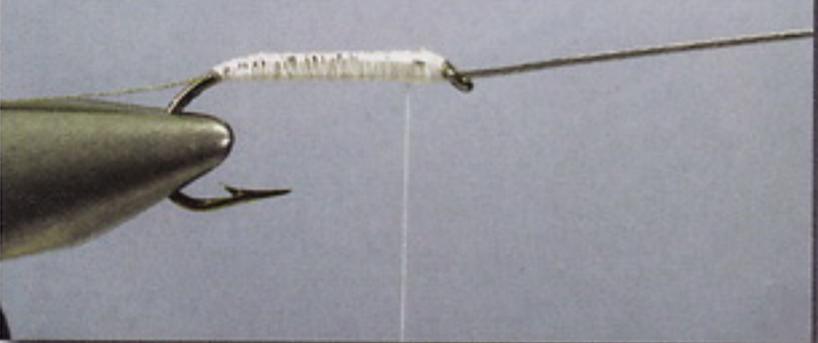
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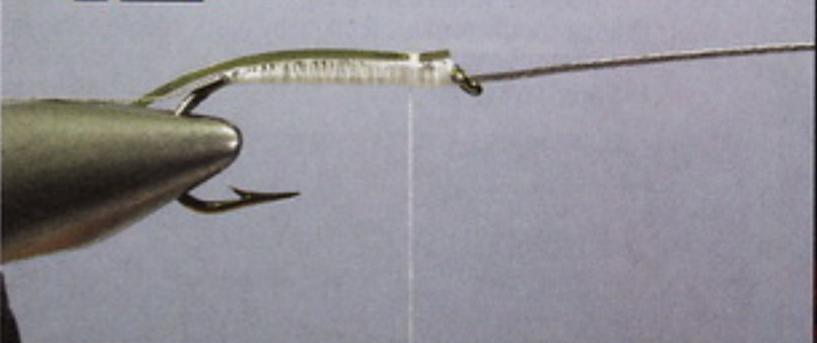
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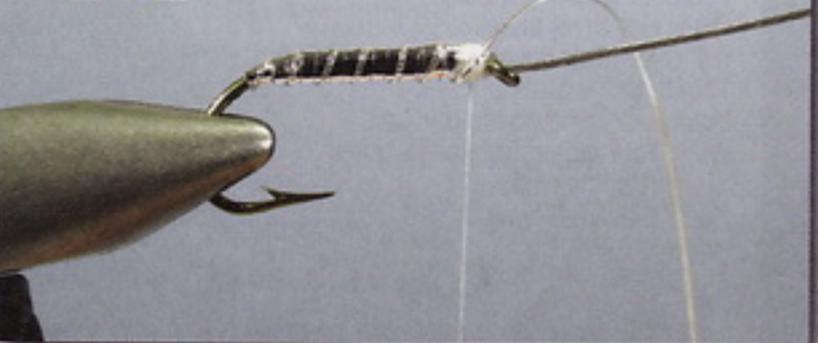
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RED GHOST VARIATION

Originated by Ray Salminen of Acton, Massachusetts, as tied by the Percy Tackle Company.

Hook: Standard wet fly hooks, size 6 and 4.

Thread: White 3/0 for assembling the body, orange 8/0 for finishing the fly.

Body: Orange floss.

Rib: Flat silver tinsel.

Underwing: Five strands of peacock herl and then sparse red bucktail.

Throat: Red bucktail.

Wing: Four red saddle hackles.

Shoulder: Body feather from a jungle cock.

Head: Black 8/0 tying thread.



BUTCH'S PHANTOM

Originated by Earl "Butch" Carey of Gardiner, Maine.

Hook: Standard wet fly hooks, sizes 6 and 4.

Thread: White size 3/0 for assembling the body, orange size 8/0 for finishing the fly.

Tail: Orange hackle fibers.

Body: Orange floss.

Rib: Embossed silver tinsel.

Underwing: Sparse white bucktail.

Wing: Orange saddle hackles flanked by black saddle hackles.

Shoulder: Silver pheasant body feather.

Head: Black 8/0 tying thread.



BROWN SPECIAL

Hook: Standard wet fly hooks, sizes 6 and 4.

Thread: White 3/0 for assembling the body, white 8/0 for finishing the fly.

Body: Flat gold tinsel.

Underwing: Sparse yellow bucktail and then red bucktail.

Wing: Four brown saddle hackles.

Shoulder: Black-tipped almond body feather from a male ring-necked pheasant.

Head: Black 8/0 tying thread.

ADDING THE FORWARD HOOK

1 Place the size 4 hook in the vise and wrap the shank with the size 3/0 thread.

2 Spin the bobbin clockwise to tighten the twist in the thread. Spiral-wrap the thread toward the hook eye to form the elevated rib.

3 With the hook back in the upright position, you can see that I'm leaving a generous head space behind the eye. This will be important as we add more materials.

4 We will tie the front end of the joining wire on top of the front hook. Make sure the end of the wire isn't in the designated head space. Tie the wire in position with two or three soft wraps.

5 Wrap the thread toward the bend; use firm tension so the thread bites into the nylon-coated wire.

6 Hold the trailing hook in place with one hand while wrapping with the other. This helps keep the hooks in line with each other.

7 Wrap the thread toward the hook eye, forming a smooth base for the body.

8 Tie in the end of the oval silver tinsel the full length of the body.

9 Once again, wrap the thread toward the eye, making smooth, edge-to-edge wraps.

10 Tie in the flat tinsel just like we did on the first hook; a few firm wraps will hold it in place.



ALLAGASH AL

Originated by Al Leibowitz of Percy Tackle Company, Portland, Maine.

Hook: Standard wet fly hooks, sizes 6 and 4.

Thread: White 3/0 for assembling the body, white and black 8/0 for finishing the fly.

Body: Flat silver tinsel.

Rib: Oval silver tinsel.

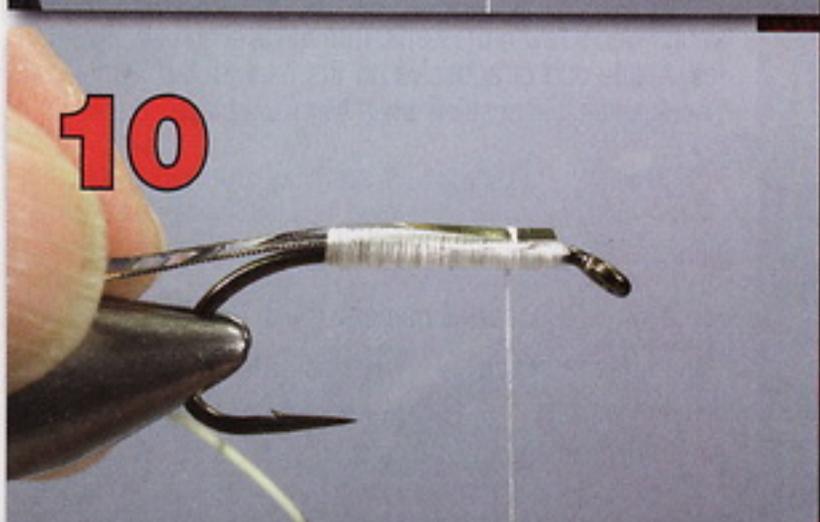
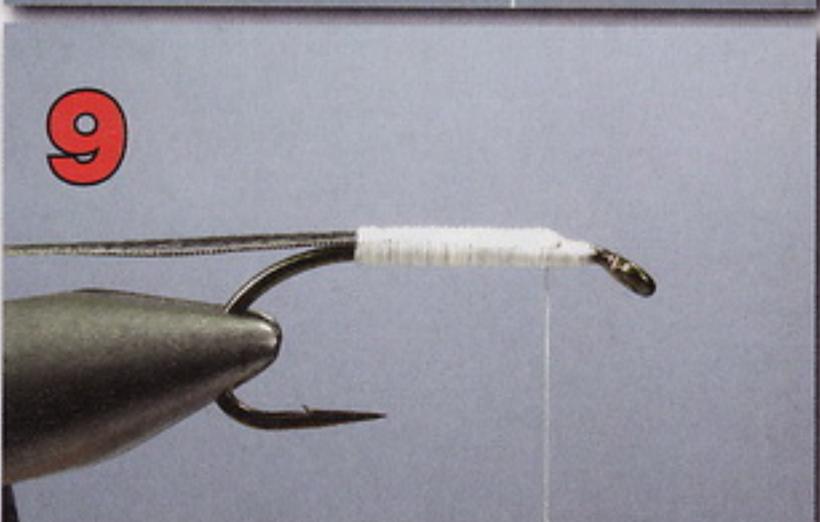
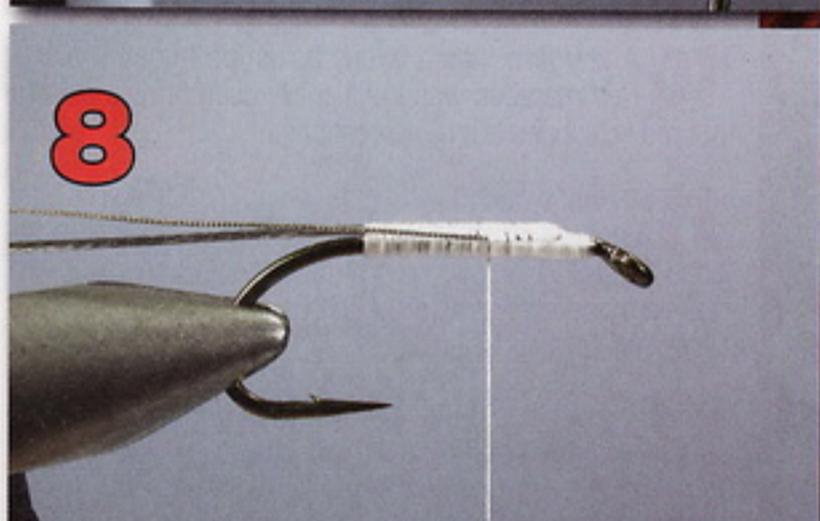
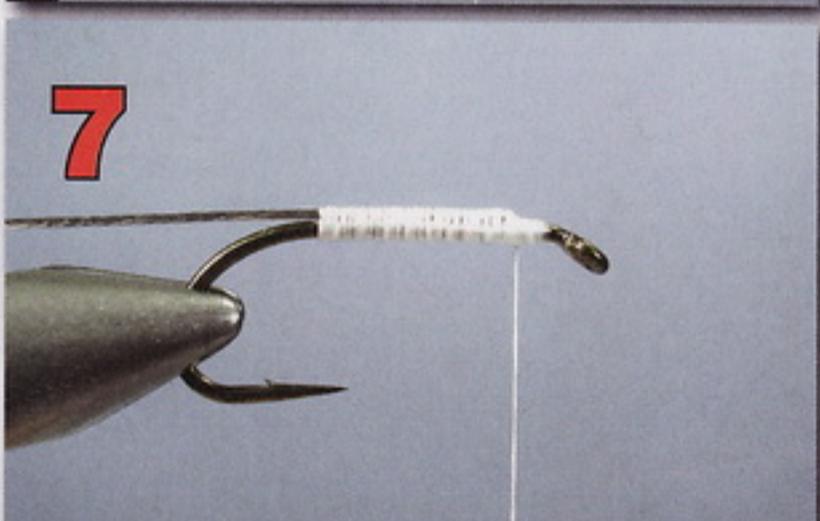
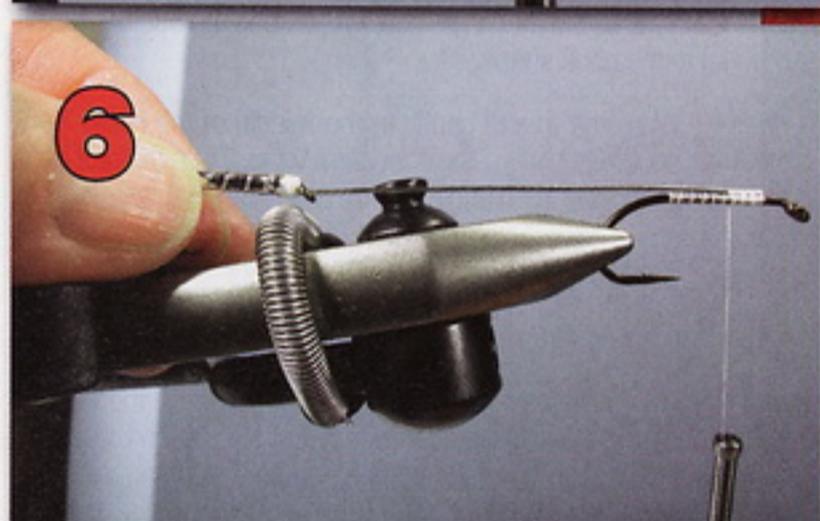
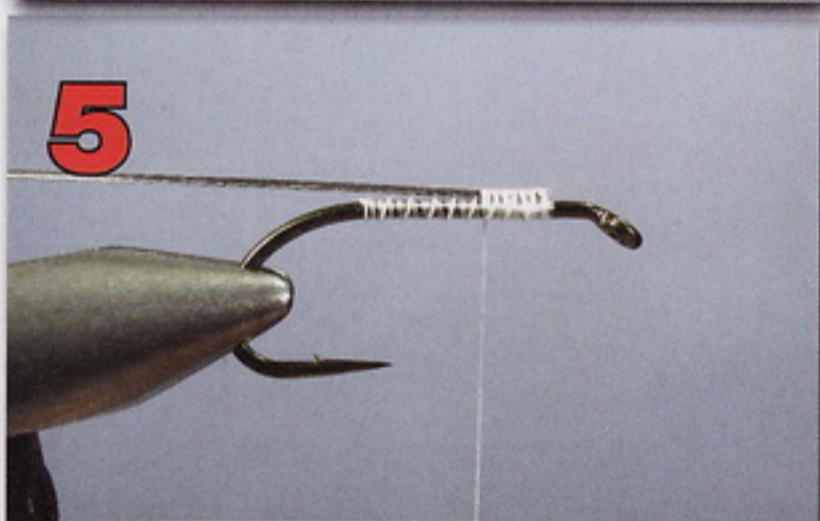
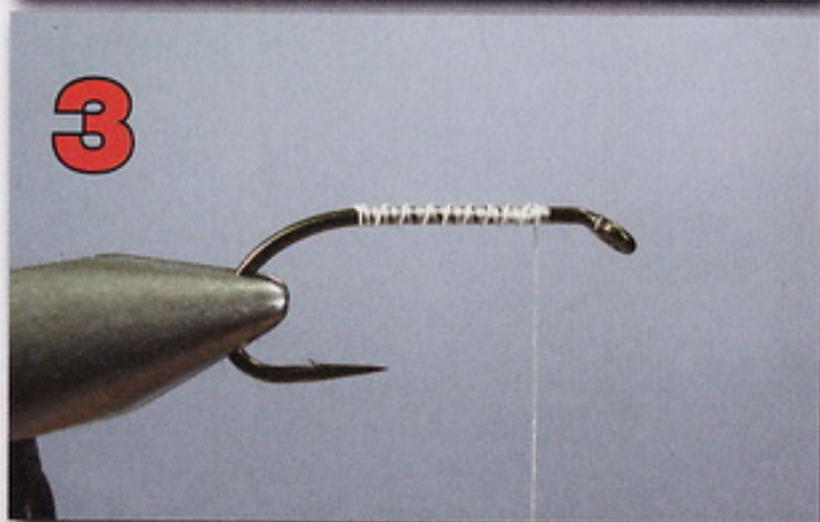
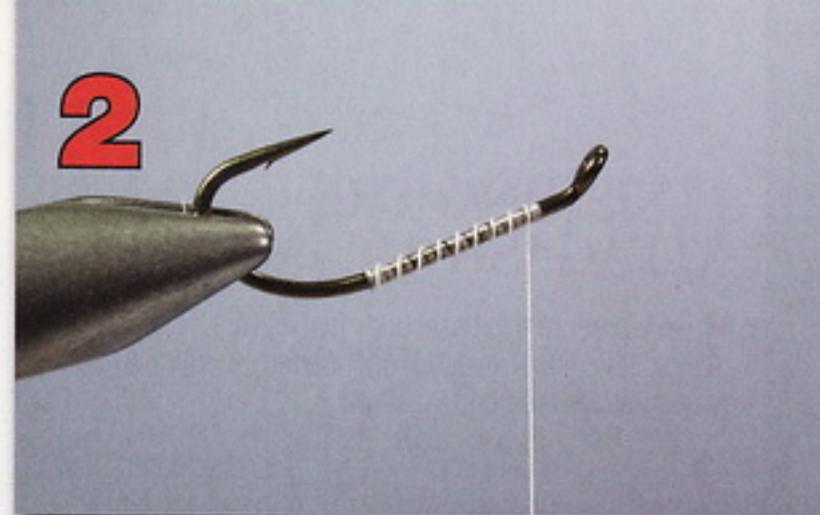
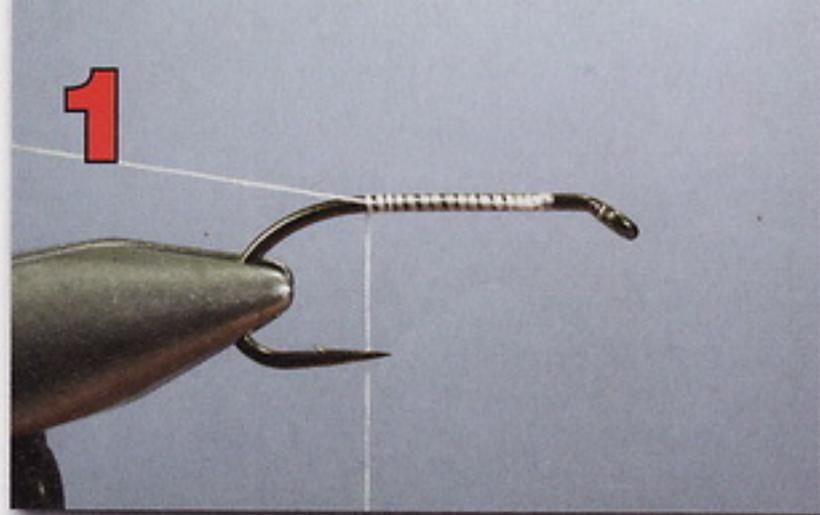
Throat: Red marabou.

Underwing: Sparse red bucktail.

Wing: Four ginger furnace hackles.

Cheek: Jungle cock.

Head: Black 8/0 tying thread.



FINISHING THE ALLAGASH AL

1 Let's prepare this tinsel body just as we did the first time. Fold the tinsel over to get started, then make closed wraps toward the bend.

2 Tapering the tinsel at the rear of the hook can be a bit tricky, but the fish aren't nearly as picky as we are. You'll get the hang of it after tying a few flies. Wrap the tinsel toward the eye and secure it with a few firm wraps.

3 Spiral-wrap the oval tinsel forward to make the rib. Tidy up with a few additional thread wraps, and tie off and snip the white thread.

4 Let's tie in the rest of the materials and finish the head using the black 8/0 thread. Wrap the thread to the back of the head space.

5 Measure the bucktail so the tips extend just beyond the bend of the rear hook.

6 Tie in the bucktail with five or six soft wraps, advancing toward the bend. The soft wraps keep the bucktail parallel to the hook shank.

7 Wrap the thread gently to the middle of the head. Next, secure the hair using a few firm wraps. Trim the butt ends of the bucktail at an angle to form a nice taper at the head.

8 Select a piece of red marabou for the throat. I'm using a scrap from the lower part of a saddle hackle; there's plenty of material here for a throat or two.

9 After stripping a small bunch of fibers from the feather, moisten the material and roll it together. This makes tying on the throat much easier. Sometimes turning the hook over makes this step easier to accomplish.

10 A few firm thread wraps holds the throat in place. Red marabou was traditionally used on this pattern but red schlappen is a nice substitute.

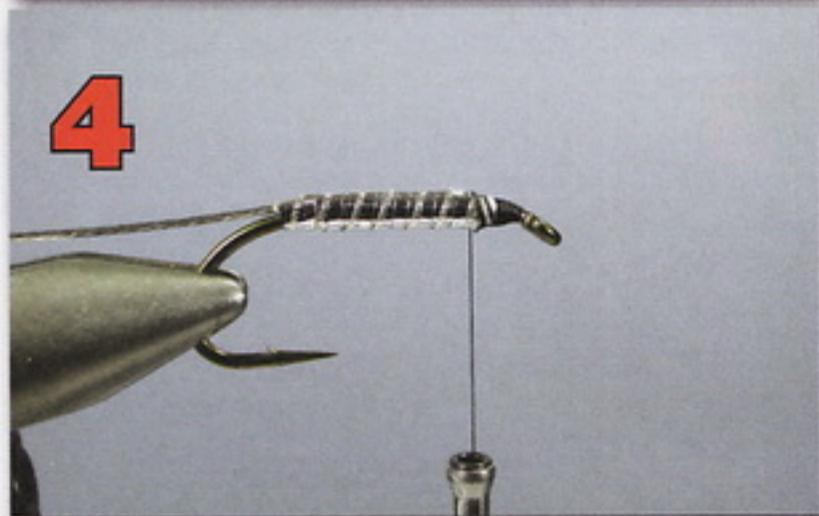
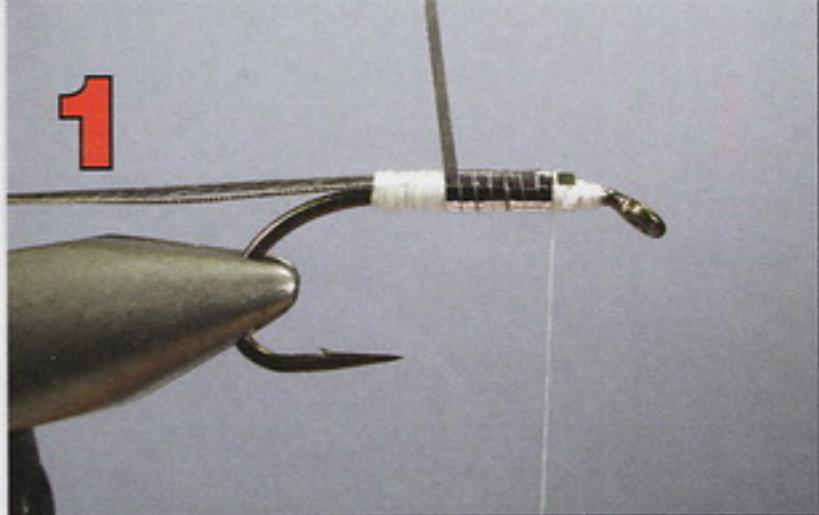
11 Starting with the far-side wing, I'm tying on the wings—one at a time—at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions. The bucktail underwing will help support the wings as you tie them in. A few soft thread wraps supports the wing while I check its position.

12 Tie in the wing nearest to you the same way. Start with a few soft wraps and then take another look. If the wings are where you want them, advance the thread forward with three or four soft wraps, and then secure the wings with a few firm wraps. Trim the butt ends of the hackles. A little dab of adhesive on the back of the jungle cock cheek holds it in position while tying it in place.

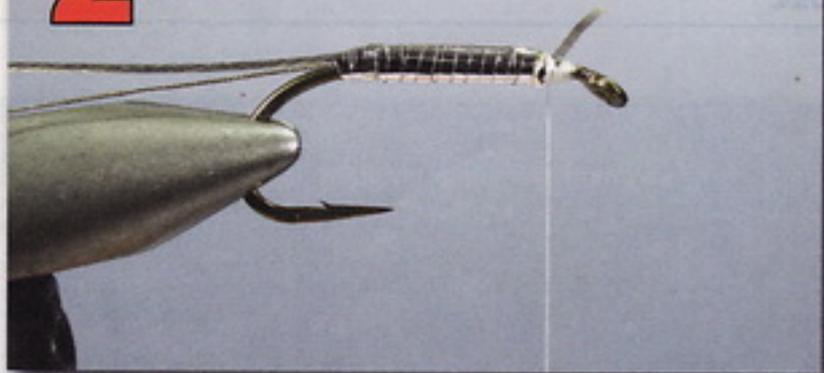
13 Flatten the thread by spinning your bobbin counter-clockwise. Wrap a nice bullet-shaped head, whip-finish, and clip.

14 A few coats of cement gives this fly the desired glossy head.

15 What a great looking pattern. No doubt this one will catch some fish!



2



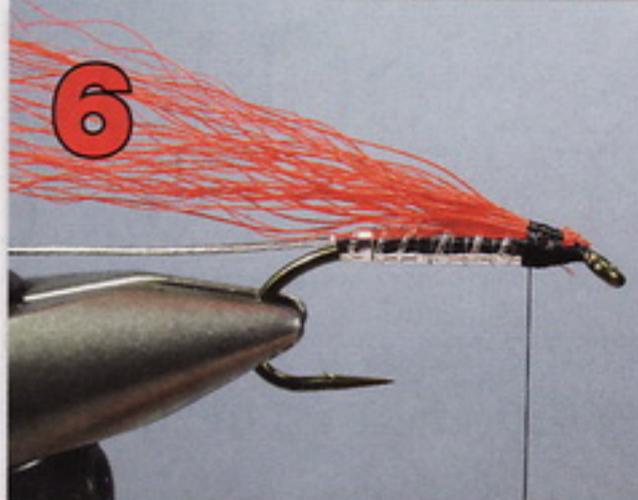
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If It's Not Here, You Don't Need It

Are you setting up your first fly tying bench? Here's some common-sense advice on the tools you'll really use.

For beginners, setting up to tie flies can at first appear every bit as complicated as gearing up to fish. If you've been thinking of giving fly tying a try, I'm sure you've already been confronted with a bewildering array of tools. Most of them are ingenious and damned cool looking, too. Of course, that

doesn't help clear up the confusion.

Well, guess what? Tools are just tools, and too often, cleverness overreaches itself. Now, keep in mind that I've been tying a long while and have become pretty damned set in my ways. I tend toward minimalism. Other folks have different ideas, and they no doubt swear by many of the tools that I think I don't need. Let me give you my opinions and tell you why I think the way I do. Regardless of whether you agree with me, remember that the only requirements all fly tying tools must meet are that they be comfortable, function well, and make it easier for you to crank out effective fish getters. A surprisingly lean tool kit, wisely assembled, can take you far.

For Starters

Okay, let's consider the photograph opening this article. You're probably looking at the madman and the fishing bear at the left, or the cute photos of my wife holding a lamb as a little girl, and when she was being a really, really good sport the first time

I took her fishing. These are important! I'll tell you why in a bit, but first I want you to forget about all the tying books in the background; they're there to add atmosphere to my shot. Take away the books and the bric-a-brac, and what's left is a surprisingly small collection of tools. Notice that I've put my own kit together. It's not a prepackaged beginner's kit; buy such a kit, and you'll soon outgrow it. And before you do, you'll have some frustrating, awkward tying that may turn you away altogether. It's far better (and in the long run no more expensive) to tool up the right way at the beginning.

A vise is the only item that will cost you a bit. And spend a bit. Don't begrudge yourself a vise that will serve you long and well. The one in my photo is called the Atlas Vise. (A company called Wolff Indiana manufactures the Atlas Vise.) It's a good example of a high-quality, middle-of-the-road, workhorse vise. A number of other fine vises are equally worthy.

Your new vise should be a rotary model. This means you can spin the head or

jaws to turn the fly over while you're tying to see how things are coming along on the far side of the hook. You have no idea how convenient that is!

Make sure the vise's jaws are machined, forged, and/or hardened steel. Cast metal jaws are brittle and may chip if you clamp hooks too close to their tips. And give special notice to how a vise is finished. Good production value and an attention to detail are a telling indication of quality. I especially like it if the fly shop sets up a display vise where customers can play with it; that vise almost surely gets a rough workout. After all this, if there is no play in the joints or fittings, no parts are missing, and the action remains smooth, it is well made. And one last thought: Pedestal-mounted vises are the most convenient. You can use them on any flat surface, whereas C-clamp-mounted models require suitable table edges, which are harder to find than you might think.

We also see a bottle of cement in this photo. Flexament (or a similar flexible or vinyl cement) will take care of every need you encounter during general-purpose tying. It works admirably as a feather coating (such as when making nymph wing cases or beetle backs), as an underlying adhesive for wrapping delicate materials, as a sealant over Magic Marker detailing, and of course, as a head finish. I cut my cement by a third with thinner so that it penetrates and dries faster. When it thickens due

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL "BUGS" LOGAN

As far as I'm concerned, whatever is missing from this photo is something you can do without.



to evaporation, I just re-dilute it.

Superglue penetrates most materials and sets in a heartbeat. Some tiers don't even finish off their flies with a head knot, but instead use a superglue! I routinely add a tiny drop to the bases of split tails and hackles on my dry flies. You should also keep gel (often called gap-filling) glue on hand; it is especially handy when tying with foam.

A bodkin cleaner is no more than an old film canister packed with coarse steel wool. Stab your bodkin into the canister a

few times to clean and polish the needle.

Good lighting is important to prevent damaging eyestrain. My tying lamp has an adjustable neck. If you live near an IKEA or a similar bargain home furnishings outlet, you'll find such a lamp shockingly cheap. Be warned: The switch will wear out in a year or two, at which point you must either buy a new lamp or replace the switch. It took me 20 minutes to rewire my lamp with a new switch that will last for years.

Okay, what's not in the picture? (Re-

member, we're collecting the tools we need, not the tools we want.) First, there's no bobbin threader. To thread a bobbin, all you have to do is insert the thread in the bottom end of the tube (allow a bit of slack) and suck it through. You also won't find a whip-finish tool. The most important tools are your hands! The more you depend on them, the better tier you'll become. It takes just modest effort to learn to tie a head knot by hand, and far less to finish a fly with a series of simple half hitch knots and drop of cement.

The Better to Clip With

You should have two good pairs of scissors, plus a sacrificial pair. If possible, inspect and purchase scissors in person. Check for smooth, tight action, and pay special attention to the thickness of the blades at the tips. There will be variation between scissors, even from the same manufacturer. Look at scissors not from the side but from the tip end. The finer (or thinner) the tips, the closer they will trim.

Finger-hole size is also important. Scissors must feel comfortable; you'll be using them a lot. Look at the difference between the two pairs at lower right. Even though the pair on top has fabulous blades, the narrow holes and sharp edges made them far too annoying to use.

Fine scissors should be small bladed. They're meant for general-purpose work, most of which is delicate. Respect them! Don't try cutting heavy, hard, or bulky materials with them, and never, ever use them on foam. Some tiers prefer slightly curved blades, but I find straight blades more convenient. I've used this pair marketed by Tiemco (lower left) for several years.

Heavy scissors, like the flashy pair seen in the lower middle (made by Dr. Slick), are meant for clipping or trimming coarse hair, monofilament, ribbing wire, and other materials that would dull fine scissors. They should have slightly larger, straight, serrated blades. I can't stress that last attribute enough. Serrated scissors grip material marvelously, and I guarantee you'll be glad for it.

Use sacrificial scissors (at the top) to cut foam or anything else. They can be either reassigned tying scissors that have begun to wear out, a cheap pair of sewing scissors, or even a small pair of household scissors. Chances are you already have some that will do!



Ready to Wrap

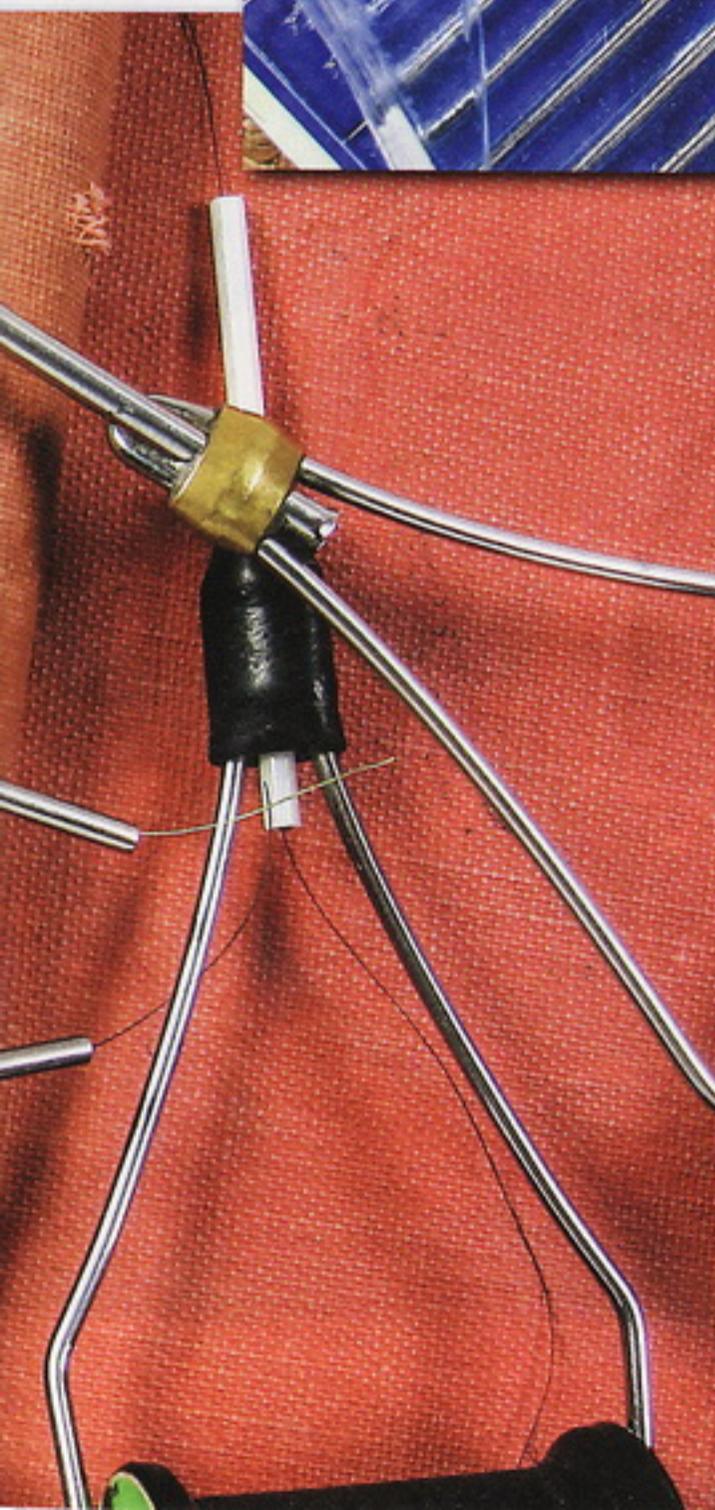
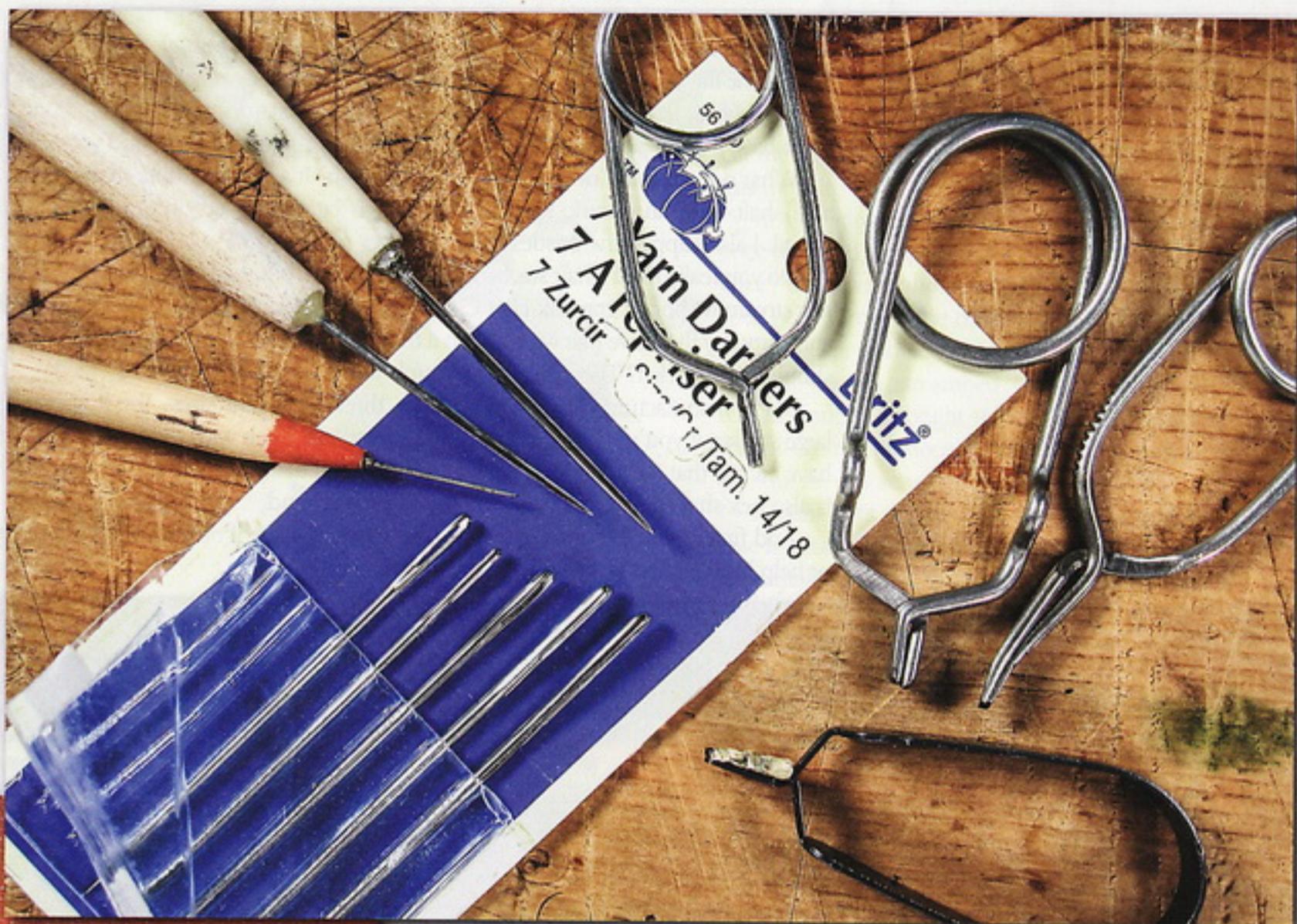
Frank Matarelli made the bobbin at lower left long ago, but many manufacturers have copied it. When a tool is so widely copied, it's a powerful recommendation. This design is basic, efficient, simple to adjust, holds different sizes of spools, and if you don't pay for a name brand, you can find one easily and cheaply.

Bobbins come with an array of different tubes. Stick with the standard or regular size, and don't bother with the rest. Narrow-diameter or "midge"-sized tubes have no advantage that I can ascertain, and they are a nuisance to thread. Bent tubes and ergonomic designs don't do a thing to make tying more comfortable, and long tubes are awkward to use. Unless you're planning to tie *really* big flies, the same is true of larger diameter and flared tubes; they're far too clunky for general use.

Bobbins with ceramic tubes, like the white one in the photo, are neat for tying massive quantities of flies. I've heard that thread will wear grooves in a metal tube and roughen it over time. I've worn out bobbins without this happening and have had two ceramic tubes break when they fell to the floor.

Consider buying two bobbins. Most of us use at least two thread colors for most of our tying, and it's pleasant not to have to continually rethread.





No Points for Looks

Far too much fuss is made over hackle pliers and bodkins. A bodkin is no more than a needle in a handle, yet I've seen handles made of stainless steel, brass, silver, precious woods, and even inlaid with ivory, turquoise, and who knows what else. This is plain silliness.

My dad made his bodkin by gluing a needle into a wine cork he crudely whittled down. It worked just fine. I used the same sort of bodkin quite contentedly for years until a buddy decided it had no class. He made me the one seen at top left (and in the opening photo) by forcing a big brass bead onto a large needle, and epoxying the back end inside a long bone bead. This is a great bodkin with perfect weight and handle size, but I haven't begged for another. Instead, I knocked together the two seen below using sections of wooden dowel for handles, but you don't have to go to even that much trouble. A needle taped to a pencil will give you a working bodkin less apt to roll away, and if it tried to hide in plain sight, the bright color would give it away!

My advice regarding hackle pliers is short, sweet, and is going to sound repetitive: Ignore the gazillions of fancy models you come across. Oh, they're ingenious—with handles, hinges, offset jaws, jointed rings, push-button clips, and more—but ignore them. My all-time-favorite hackle pliers (also made by Tiemco and seen at the lower right) are as basic as breathing. They've wounded a flock's worth of chicken feathers, have thin jaws, clasp firmly without slipping, don't cut hackle stems (as the three poorly made pliers above do), and cost about the same as a single packet of hooks. They also have a large finger loop. If I stick my finger through it, the pliers spin freely as my hand whirls around the fly. The result is a neat hackle wrapped in moments.

These pliers came with a little piece of plastic tubing on one jaw to better grip feathers, but I quickly lost it. For years, I've simply wrapped a bit of masking tape in its place.

Plain and Practical Stuff

Keep some flat-jawed needle-nosed pliers close at hand. They're great for pinching barbs, altering hooks, flattening nymph profiles, and for all sorts of small random chores. You must have a spare pair in your fishing vest or floating somewhere around your house.

What do you think of my fancy dubbing brush? It's nothing more than the disposable shaft from an electric toothbrush that has been jammed onto a whittled-down pencil. I also clipped the bristles shorter so they seem stiffer.

Do you really need a hair stacker? I use mine often, but then I wouldn't be caught on any stream without a gray Elk-Hair Caddis in my fly box. Actually, almost all my down-and-dirty dry flies have hair wings, even if they're mayfly imitations. Don't you think you should get a stacker? There are only a couple of things to know.

Many manufacturers offer two—maybe three—different sizes. You'll appreciate a large stacker if you're going to tie big flies, otherwise, stick with the middle size. Most have barrels that are a bit wider than a centimeter in diameter. The stacker you see here is also hex-shaped so it stays put and doesn't roll around.

And finally, you'll eventually want some masking tape, if only to make a quick tool or help hackle pliers grip feathers better.





What Matters Most

Let me tell you about my little bottle, and why I keep this fly in it.

In a meadow I am fond of, a line of willow bushes once crowded along a small, chattering brook. In one place, there was a hole in the bushes. If you thrust your head through the hole, you saw a boulder with a wee pocket cradled behind it, a scrape of scattered sunlight on the streambed gravel, and a hovering brown trout with bright red spots. You would have thought him an innocent, living so snug and forgotten, but he was actually very nervous and skittish.

I spent a lot of time trying to catch that little fellow. It became a game of the best sort. There was an impossible challenge to it, which I bet you have already guessed: I had to stand far enough back to cast through the hole. Pure foolishness, right? Even when I made it through, there was no control, hope, or second chance. I always hung up, and sometimes I lost flies.

One day, after snagging the bushes yet again, I reached in, and look at what I found: this rusted, discolored fly driven through the very twig, and it was mine, too! What are the odds of two flies becoming stuck beside each other in the same twig?

Long ago, the creek changed course and the poor willow bushes died. I never caught the brown that lived beneath them, but I remember how it was.

We collect all kinds of treasures. We pick up bits of weathered wood or bone and rounded stones that look especially wonderful among the thousand others. We keep photographs of fishing buddies, departed friends we miss, and those we dearly love. One youngster I taught to fish made me a clay bear with a yellow vest. It was for my tying bench, he said. And then he made the madman with flame-tipped hair, which I think is supposed to be what I'm like when I'm fishing, although I'm confused about the saddle shoes. Now my buddy is headed to medical school and applying to be a Rhodes Scholar, so we don't often fish together. But we just got off the phone after he called to ask about British trout streams. His childhood gifts mean the world to me and I know he will always look at running water differently and know something of it, wherever life takes him.

If the tools we use ought to be practical and kept to a minimum, the bits and pieces of the memories we treasure should crowd around. They're more important than anything. Some remind us of where we once were and what we would like to see again. Tying flies is, from the very start, an act of hope. We plan on good days and prepare for them, wondering what we may find when we get there. 

Bill "Bugs" Logan is indeed a fly fishing poet. He is also an artist, traveler, and one damn fine fly tier. He spends most of the winter and early spring holed up in his studio in New Jersey, and spends the rest of the year fishing. You can learn more at his new website, www.billloganart.com.



The Porcupine-Quill Callibaetis

Our author explains how to tie a very effective dry fly using a very unusual material.

I arrived at the lake at mid-morning and by noon was feeling more than a little frustrated. There were the rings of rising trout when I put in, but not enough to dissuade me from starting with a sinking line. Still, of my standard patterns—a small green Woolly Bugger, an assortment of

dark leeches, and a shiny blood worm—none drew more than a tentative strike. I moved on to more realistic damselfly nymphs, other lake nymphs, and scuds, but I was no closer to catching a fish.

In something approaching desperation, and recalling the few *Callibaetis* I

spotted earlier in the day, I decided to switch to my dry fly rod. There were fewer *Callibaetis* now, but I figured my latest porcupine-quill extended-body imitation deserved a try. I tied it on near an undercut bank where I saw a fish splash. I cast. The line sailed out, the tippet straight-

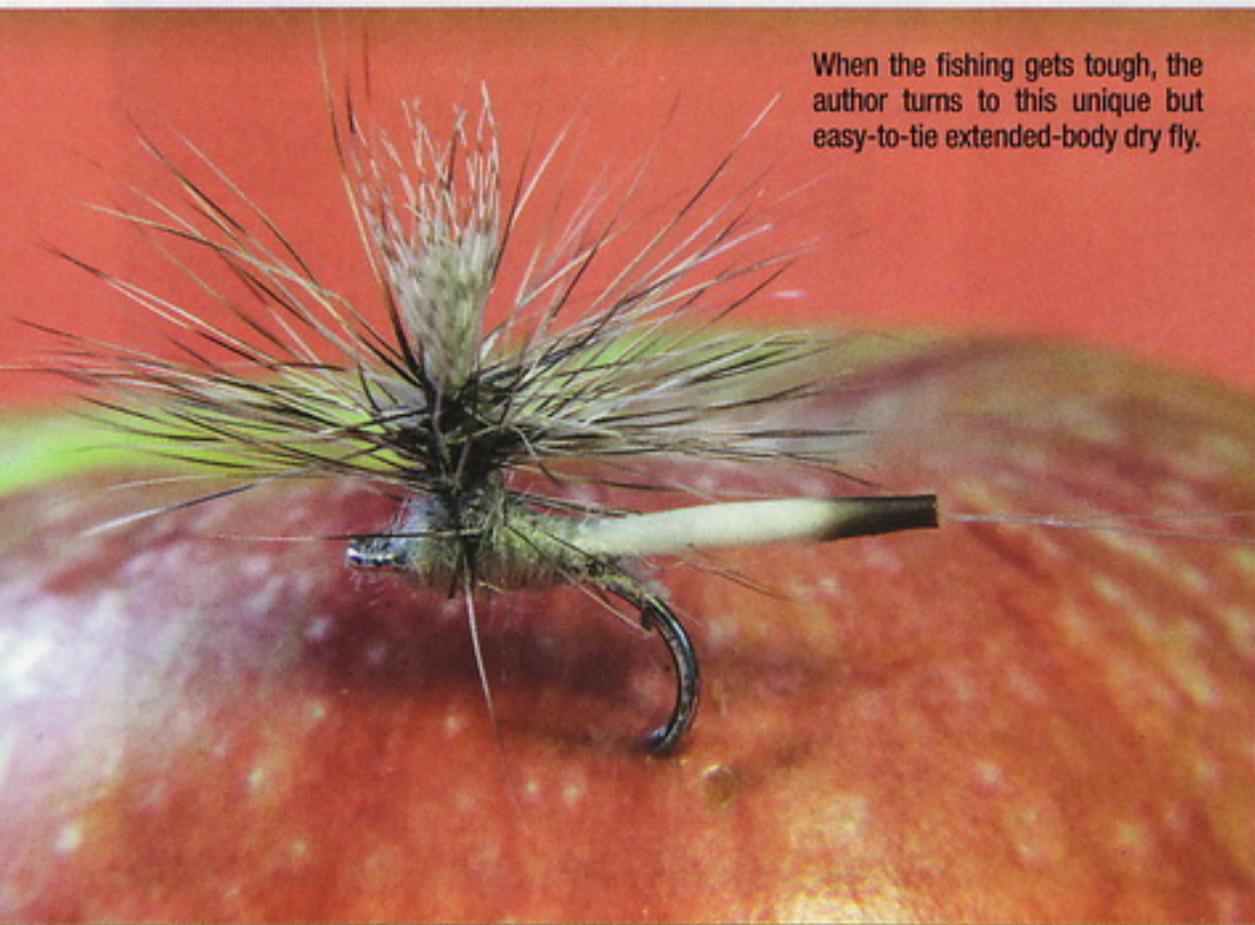
ened just above the water, and my fly landed gently. No reaction. After waiting a few seconds, I gave the rod a twitch, then a second twitch. Still no strike.

Preparing to cast again, I tightened the line, pulling the fly under the surface and catching an underwater obstruction. Preparing to free it, I gave a mild tug and the obstruction took off. After an extended battle, I netted a fat, 18-inch-long rainbow trout. I continued fishing my Porcupine-Quill *Callibaetis* and caught more trout; one fish surprised me by breaking the lake's calm surface and snatching the fly from the air.

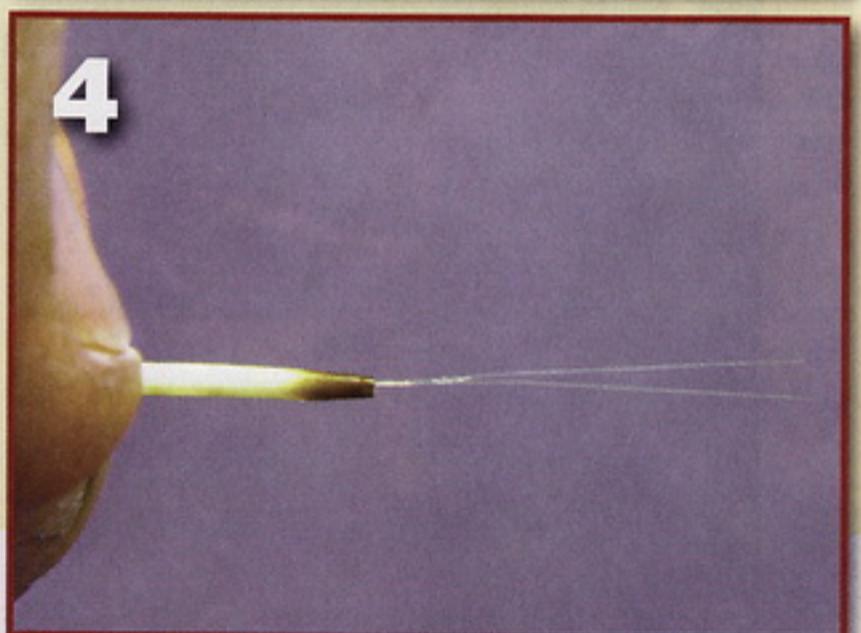
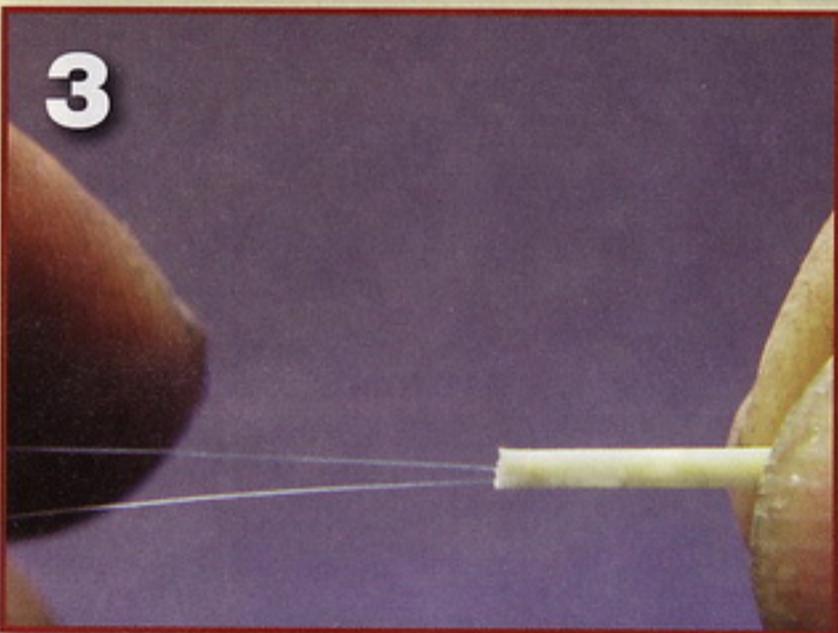
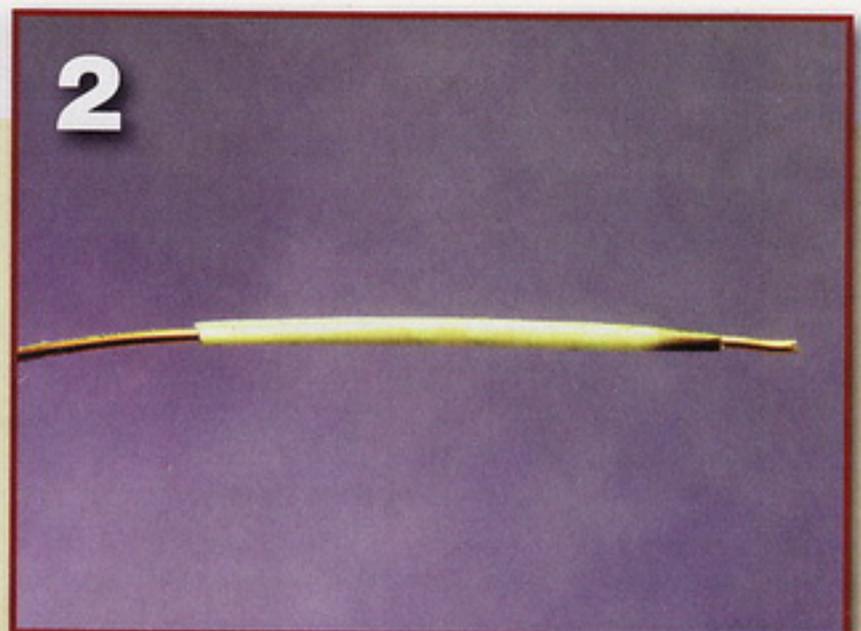
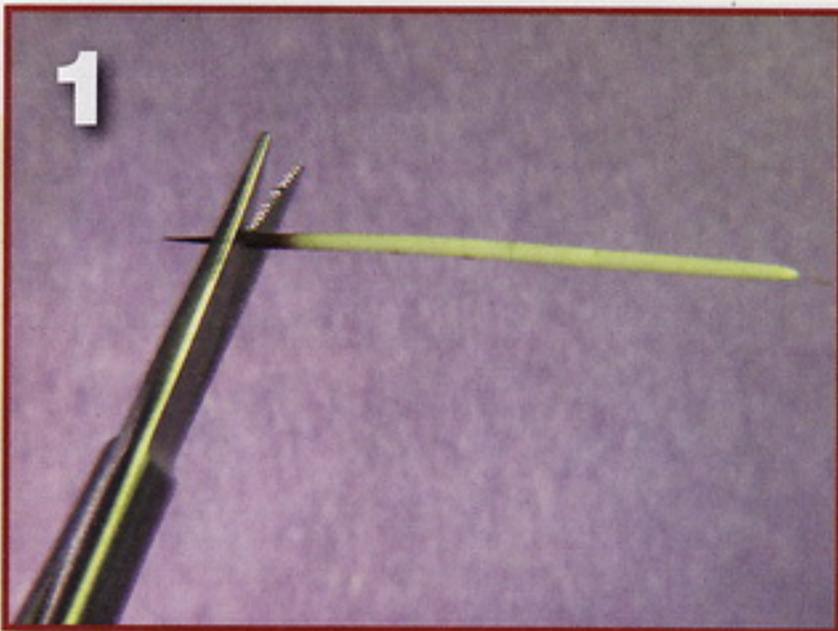
Several hours later, I decided to pack it up. I had lost at least as many fish as I caught—to weeds, to the low breaking strength of my 5X tippet, and to the weak grip of a short-shank, size 16 hook. No matter: when the trout wouldn't take anything else, they were happy to strike my Porcupine-Quill *Callibaetis*. I was content.

How I Fish the Hatch

I'd always fished a *Callibaetis* imitation with a nymph dropper, tying the subsurface pattern to the hook bend of the floating fly. In a lake, the fish get a nice long look at your fly, and they can study even a twitched floating pattern pretty thoroughly. A moving nymph seems a different matter. The trout would often come for a look at the dry fly and opt for the nymph. But there was a drawback to this technique: the splash of the dropper at the end of the cast, especially in shallow water, drove fish away as often as the dry fly attracted them.



When the fishing gets tough, the author turns to this unique but easy-to-tie extended-body dry fly.



Making the Extended Abdomen

- 1** Select an American porcupine quill. Clip off both ends of the quill.
- 2** Ream out the center of the quill using a small needle or straight piece of copper wire.
- 3** Insert the tails through the prepared quill.
- 4** Place a drop of superglue on both ends of the quill. Spread the tails before the glue dries.

PORCUPINE-QUILL CALLIBAETIS

Hook: Short-shank dry fly or scud hook, sizes 20 to 16.

Thread: Gray 8/0 (70 denier).

Tails: Moose mane hair, Microfibbets, or Mayfly Tails.

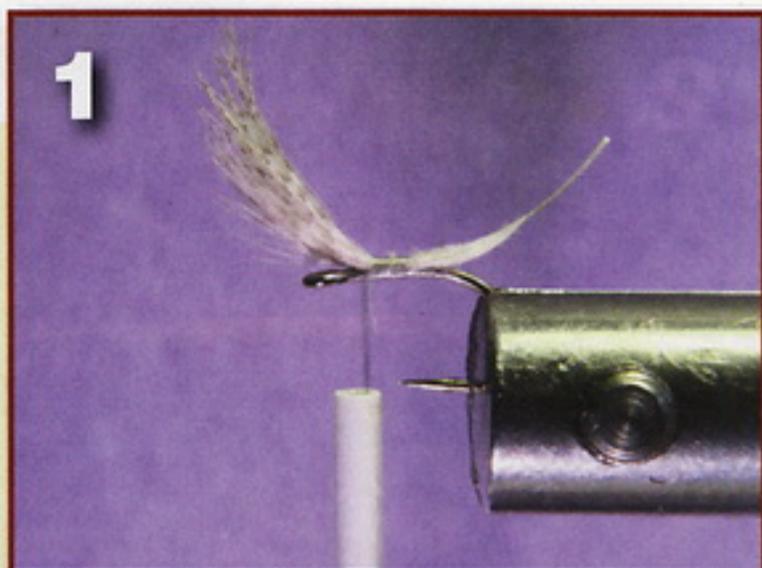
Extended body (abdomen): American porcupine quill.

Thorax: Gray dubbing.

Wing post: Mallard flank feather.

Hackle: Grizzly.





Tie the Porcupine-Quill Callibaetis

1 Start the thread on the hook. Wrap a thread base. Strip the fluffy fibers from the base of a mallard flank feather. Tie the feather to the top of the hook with the tips over the eye. Pull the feather backward to adjust the length of the wing post; the finished post should equal the overall length of the hook.

2 Tie the hackle to the hook at the base of the wing post.

3 Wrap a small dam of thread in front of both feathers to cock them up. Tie on the porcupine extended abdomen behind the wing post.

4 Spin a pinch of dubbing on the thread. Wrap the thorax behind and in front of the wing post.

5 Wrap the hackle around the base of the wing post; I am holding the post taut using hackle pliers.

6 Tie off and clip the excess hackle tip behind the hook eye. Wrap a neat thread head, carefully whip-finish the thread, and snip.

I started fishing my latest *Callibaetis* imitation without a dropper; after all, I was experimenting, anxious to get started, and didn't think highly of my chances. When the quill extended-body version worked, it didn't occur to me to add a dropper, and when I did remember, the additional fly seemed unnecessary. Why fiddle with success?

I tie this quill version on short-shank and scud hooks in sizes 20 to 16. I prefer scud hooks because they weigh less. *Callibaetis* naturals diminish in size as the season progresses, but don't rush to your smallest pattern; I have no trouble getting strikes on flies that are at least one size larger than the naturals. I've even had hits when the hatch was essentially over and I could see no naturals on the water; I suspect that the sporadic hatches I encountered faded slowly and the trout were still prepared to accept the naturals—and their imitations.

The porcupine quill extended body is the key ingredient in this pattern. Porcupine quills are rarely available from fly tying supply houses. I've harvested my supply from road-kill, but you can find quills listed on E-bay and jewelry making websites. Be sure to purchase American—not African—porcupine quills; the later are too large for tying this fly.

Helpful Tying Tips

Making the porcupine quill extended-body dry fly is relatively simple. I suggest preparing a number of extensions before tying the flies. First, select your quills. Even American porcupine quills vary in thickness and length, but you will be cutting the quill, so length is immaterial. As for thickness, avoid both the thinnest and the thickest quills.

Snip off a small bit of the "pricker" end of the quill; that's the black, shaded part. Remove the last one-quarter to one-third of the tip. Next, cut the remaining quill in half. You can shorten the extended quill body to its final length just before attaching it to the hook.

You must ream the quill before using it. Do this using a fine sewing needle or straight piece of copper wire as a reamer. Be sure the wire goes straight through the quill or you will pierce the side. Push the reamer into the larger end of the quill and continue until it exits the smaller black-

tipped opening. Use a slow, back-and-forth motion as you work. It's not necessary to remove all the contents from the quill, but there's not much there; you're simply clearing a path for the tails.

Callibaetis duns and spinners have two tails. Your imitation can have more tails, but two will suffice. I started using moose mane hair for tails but switched to Microfibbets. (A product called Mayfly Tails are a fine substitute for Microfibbets.) The color of the tail doesn't seem to matter; moose mane hairs are black, but now I use blue dun Microfibbets. I like the appearance of the finished tail but haven't noticed that the color makes any difference in the effectiveness of the fly.

Moisten the butt ends of the hairs or Microfibbets before inserting them into the quill; this holds them together when threading them into the larger end of the extended body. Push the tail forward until it protrudes from the other end of the quill. The length of the tail is not critical, but remember that the tails on *Callibaetis* naturals are longer than on many other

mayflies. Once the tail is in position, place a tiny drop of superglue at each end of the quill. Spread the individual hairs before the glue dries, but be careful or you might accidentally pull one of the fibers out of position. The fly will balance well on the water and be just as effective in attracting fish whether or not the tails are forked. Now you can tie the fly!

That's all there is to it. When the extended body breaks off, as it eventually will, you can tie another to the hook and conceal the new thread wraps with a pinch of dubbing. I have had extensions last through five trout before retiring a fly; a more careful angler with agile fingers could probably land even more fish using the same fly. But this pattern is easy and fun to tie, so when trout are very especially picky, I'm content with even one fish per fly; durability is a variable concept to me.

Mark Halperin is a talented fly designer who takes great care when creating new patterns. He is a regular contributor to our magazine. Mark lives in Washington State.

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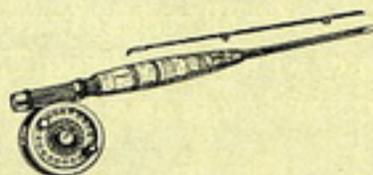
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Fly Tyer Profile

CONTINUED

(Continued from page 80)

Drew's first contribution to this magazine, which is about a pattern he calls the Detonator Crab, appeared in the Winter 2014 issue. This Spring 2015 issue contains his feature article about a fly he calls the Tuscan Bunny. And, Drew has more assignments to write articles that will appear in future issues of *Fly Tyer*.

A Family Affair

We all follow a different path to fly fishing and tying. Many of us learn the sport from our parents—usually our fathers—but Drew's dad and mom played an instrumental role in his development as a fly tier.

“Both of my parents tied,” Drew said as we began talking about his fly-tying career. “They started back in the 1970's for something to do. There was a big fly-tying bench in our basement. We lived in Upstate New York, which is basically frozen eight months out of the year, so they tied flies. They got me into it when I was six or seven years old.”

Your mother tied flies too?

“Yes, she did. I actually have a book of her notes that is full of her illustrations showing how to do things like palmer-wrap feathers. It's pretty neat.”

How did your parents get into fly tying?

“My father had an older cousin who was into tying trout flies. I think that was probably the connection. He introduced my father to fly tying, and then they started taking classes to beat the four feet of snow in the front yard.”

Your parents tied mostly trout flies?

“Yes, they tied trout flies, so that's what I started tying. I think a mosquito was my first fly; it was the world's largest mosquito. I still have it. It's pretty funny to look at now. We were tying flies for fishing the small trout streams in Upstate New York.”

Although Drew cut his teeth tying flies and fishing for trout, he developed a desire to fish salt water. When presented with the opportunity, he moved to Florida.

“I lived in Florida for about ten years, but now I live in Arizona. We moved here for my wife's work. It's a whole different flavor over here, but it hasn't slowed down my saltwater fishing because I get to travel so much. I always wanted to live in Florida, and I got a job opportunity there. I was

right out of college, and I took the job.

“Today, I tie several thousand flies a year. I tie for a lot of guides around the plant, mostly for bonefish, permit, tarpon, redfish, and snook. I don't make too many striped bass flies, but I do get requests for some offshore flies for sailfish. I also tie flies for roosterfish. I have a pretty broad pallet.”

Drew's Thoughts on Fly Design

When I look at Drew's flies, they are terrific but simple. He creates his original patterns using a combination of natural and synthetic materials.

“Yes, I incorporate both types of materials, but to be honest, it's easier tying with synthetics because the quality of the ingredients is always the same. That's the limiting factor when using natural ingredients: it's hard to control the quality. If someone wants fifty of the same pattern, and you run out of feathers in the middle of tying the order and have to get more material, the flies might not all look the same. That's not good if you're a commercial tier.”

What are the most important considerations when designing a new pattern?

“I concentrate on how a fly moves in the water, but I also emphasize the sink rate. The sink rate is a huge factor of a successful fly.”

“The sink rate—where it rides in the water column—is probably the biggest consideration when I design a fly. For bonefish, permit, tarpon, and even snook, you want them to stumble upon the fly like they found it themselves; you don't want to drop it on their heads. You need to lead the fish to the fly, and to do this you have to know how fast the fly is moving through the water column to put it on the dinner plate in front of them. For snook and tarpon, if the fly is too early, it might be too low in the water column because their eyes are positioned more on the top of their heads. Because of this, I want those flies to suspend or ride higher in the water column. I'll cast six or seven feet in front of the fish so the fly doesn't come down on them like a sledgehammer and spook them; it'll hang in the water column and they'll swim up to it.”

“Designing a permit fly is different,” Drew continued. “The fly has to get down quickly because the window of opportu-



BONE APPETITE

Hook: Regular saltwater hook, size 6 or 4.

Thread: Orange 3/0.

Tail: Pearl Krystal Flash.

Body: Orange tying thread and pearl Krystal Flash.

Wing: Tan rabbit fur and silver-speckled clear Sili Legs.

Eyes: Small silver dumbbell.



CALOOSAATCHEE CANNIBAL

Hook: Gamakatsu SC-15, size 2/0.

Thread: Clear monofilament.

Belly: White saltwater yak hair and pearl Wing N' Flash.

Back: White, tan, and yellow saltwater yak hair.

Eyes: 8-millimeter clear doll eyes.



CAPTIVA CANNIBAL

Hook: Gamakatsu SC-15, size 2/0.

Thread: Monofilament.

Belly: White saltwater yak hair and pearl Wing N' Flash.

Back: White, gray, tan, and turquoise saltwater yak hair, and silver Wing N' Flash.

Eyes: 8-millimeter clear doll eyes.



MOONSHINER MINNOW

Hook: TMC 811S or Daiichi 2546, size 6 or 4.

Thread: Clear monofilament.

Tail: White marabou and pearl Mylar cord.

Body: Mylar cord and clear Vinyl Rib.

Wing: Mylar cord.

Eyes: 1/8-inch 3D eyes.



WHITE NOISE

Hook: Tiemco TMC811S or Daiichi 2546, size 2 or 1.

Thread: Clear monofilament.

Body: Steve Farrar's SF Flash Blend (white) and pearl UV Krystal Flash.

Eyes: Large monofilament.

Head: Five-minute epoxy or a light-activated acrylic finish.

Rattle: Glow-in-the-dark plastic worm rattle.



DISCO SHRIMP

Hook: Mustad 34011 or another long-shank saltwater hook, size 2 or 1.

Thread: Brown 3/0.

Body: Tan 2-millimeter-thick closed-cell foam, golden brown Ice Dub, and red foxtail hair.

Eyes: Large black EP Crab/Shrimp Eyes.

Rattle: Plastic worm rattle.

Tail: Two 4-millimeter gold sequins.



DEVIL'S DAUGHTER

Hook: Tiemco TMC811s or Daiichi 2546, size 1 or 1/0.
Thread: Black 3/0.
Tail: Peacock herl and black herl.
Body: Black marabou herl.
Head: Black deer body hair.



FLATS MCNASTY

Hook: Daiichi 2546, size 1 or 1/0.
Thread: Orange Flat Waxed Nylon
Tail: Gold lead eye.
Body: Rust and bronze EP Fibers and copper and orange Wing N' Flash.
Antennae: Four strands of gold Krystal Flash.
Eyes: Large amber EP Crab/shrimp Eyes.
Claws: Orange and brown Sili Legs.
Shell: Orangutan-rust craft fur.



5-MINUTE FINGER MULLET

Hook: Daiichi 2546, size 2 or 1.
Thread: Clear monofilament.
Body: Steve Farrar's Flash Blend (shrimp, gray, and mullet brown).
Eyes: Large black dumbbell or large black EP Crab/shrimp Eyes.
Head: Steve Farrar's Flash Blend (dubbing brush gray and mullet brown).



GT PINFISH

Hook: Daiichi 2546, size 4 or 2.
Thread: Clear monofilament.
Tail: Tan craft fur and lavender DNA Holo-Fusion.
Belly: White saltwater yak hair and blue/pearl Angel Hair.
Back: Tan saltwater yak hair and gold Angel Hair.
Eyes: Gold/silver 8-millimeter Jurassic Eyes.
Gills: Red saltwater yak hair.



ASPHYXIATOR

Hook: Daiichi 2546, size 4 or 2.
Thread: Black Flat Waxed Nylon.
Tail: Four grizzly hackles and two strands of root beer Krystal Flash.
Body: Two grizzly hackles.
Eyes: Copper bead chain.



CHICONE'S MCFLY CRAB

Hook: Gamakatsu SC-15, size 1/0.
Thread: Tan 6/0 (140 denier).
Weight: .025-inch non-lead wire.
Legs and Claws: Tan micro Ultra Chenille.
Eyes: Large EP Crab/shrimp Eyes.
Body: Tan and brown McFly Foam.
Extras: Clear Cure Goo Hydro and tan or off-white fabric paint.

nity is so small. Permit are fidgety fish and are always moving. You need the fly to get down to their level quickly because they might change direction at any moment."

Do you add weight to any of your other patterns?

"My permit flies are heavier than almost all of my other patterns. I might add a little weight to a fly when fishing for bonefish in deeper water, but my bonefish patterns are on the lighter side for softer presentations. I might add weight to bonefish flies using large bead-chain eyes, but I add more weight to permit flies."

How do you select colors when creating a new fly?

"A lot of times I tie what I call 'blank-canvas' flies and color them with permanent markers on the water. You will have greater fishing success when matching the colors of the natural bait, and subtle details can make the difference between a two-fish day and a really great day."

Drew recently wrote a book titled *Feather Brain* (Stackpole Books). It is one of the most complete books about pattern-design theory and how to tie saltwater flies I have seen.

"It took about a year and a half to complete," Drew said about writing his book. "I started with more than a thousand photos, and the publisher scaled it back to something like four hundred and fifty. I hate a photo fly tying tutorial that takes you from points A to Z in only four or five photos; that's too frustrating. I tried to think about what it would take for a new tier to make the flies in this book. It's a pain to get part way through a fly and it doesn't look right because you don't have enough instruction."

In addition to tying flies and writing, Drew teaches fly tying and fishing, leads trips, and much more. He also freely shares much of what he knows; be sure to go to his website, www.saltyflytying.com, to sign up for free informative newsletters.

Drew Chicone is a terrific young tier who is banging on all cylinders. We know you will enjoy learning more about his great fish-catching flies. 🍀

David Klausmeyer is the editor of this magazine. He is also a prolific book author.

MAYAN CICHLID

Hook: Gamakatsu SC-15, size 2/0.

Thread: Clear monofilament.

Throat: Orange saltwater yak hair.

Eyes: 8-millimeter orange or yellow doll eyes with posts.

Belly (Blend 1): 60 strands of white saltwater yak hair and 20 strands of tan saltwater yak hair.

Belly (Blend 2): 75 strands of white saltwater yak hair and 5 strands of orange saltwater yak hair.

Back (Blend 1): 50 strands of olive saltwater yak hair, 20 strands of chartreuse saltwater yak hair, and 10 strands of tan saltwater yak hair.

Back (Blend 2): 65 strands of olive saltwater yak hair and 15 strands of brown saltwater yak hair.



CHICONE'S TIDE SLAVE—BLUE

Hook: Gamakatsu SC-15, size 1/0.

Thread: Blue 3/0 (210 denier).

Mouth parts: Fluorescent fire orange or root beer Krystal Flash.

Legs: Light blue/pumpkin Fly Enhancer Legs.

Eyes: Large tungsten eyes or extra-large EP Crab/shrimp Eyes.

Body: Sand EP Foxy Bush and tan arctic fox.

Extras: Clear Cure Goo Hydro and Sally Hansen brisk blue Insta-Dri Nail Polish.



CHICONE'S TIDE SLAVE—PURPLE

Hook: Gamakatsu SC-15, size 1/0.

Thread: Purple 3/0 (210 denier).

Mouth parts: Fluorescent fire orange or root beer Krystal Flash.

Legs: Purple /pumpkin Fly Enhancer Legs.

Eyes: Large tungsten eyes or extra-large EP Crab/shrimp Eyes.

Body: Sand EP Foxy Bush and tan arctic fox.

Extras: Clear Cure Goo Hydro and Sally Hansen Miracle Gel Nail Polish (the color is called Too Haute).



DREW CHICONE: BANGING ON ALL CYLINDERS

*Pattern designer, commercial tier, author, photographer, and instructor.
If you haven't heard of Drew Chicone, you will.*

BY DAVID KLAUSMEYER



Since the 1970's, *Fly Tyer* magazine has been home to some of fly fishing's brightest stars. This is the place they have turned to introduce new patterns, tying techniques, and materials. One of our greatest pleasures is introducing you to new tiers, those innovative people who are developing fresh flies and tying methods. Drew Chicone recently joined the *Fly Tyer* family of authors. I met Drew during a trip to Orlando, Florida, and immediately recognized he was someone who would make important contributions to fly fishing and tying. In fact, he is already making his mark in our sport as a fly designer, commercial tier, instructor, and author. (Continued on page 76)