Boy Scouts of America
Beginner's Fly-Tying Handbook
Third Edition

Fred Hodge Au Sable River Golden Wing Tribute Fly

Simple and Effective Flies for Freshwater and Saltwater Fly Fishing

Cover Page

The **Fred Hodge Au Sable River Golden Wing Tribute Fly** shown here was developed and tied by Dr. Bob Sousa to honor a past member of the BSA National Fishing Committee, Fred Hodge. Bob is one of the original authors of the BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge, a member of the BSA Fishing Team, and a fly fisherman extraordinaire. See his introduction on page 4. According to Dr. Sousa:

"Like Fred, I wanted to integrate several unique features into this fly while still maintaining some traditional characteristics. For example, the red head is a traditional feature of the Ausable Wulff patterns. The unique element introduced here is that I used fluorescent UV red thread. Since UV red light penetrates water better than plain red, the fish will be able to see it from a greater distance. Fred would like that.

I wanted something to reflect Fred's personality and that is why I selected the gold cape feathers of the Golden Pheasant. Fred sure loved his pheasant hunting and we all know what a hit he made giving out pheasant tail feathers at the 2017 Jamboree. He had many hundreds of Scouts proudly wearing their pheasant feathers in their caps.

When you get to see a fly up close, you will see that its abdomen uses a tightly-wrapped quill (center spine) of a brown grizzly hackle. Taking the feather, I stripped all of the side barbels off. Now starting where I tied in the tail, I began my wraps. As the quill became thicker, it began to suggest a segmented abdomen of an adult insect. However, another reveal is that in youth we have darker hair but as we age our hair becomes whiter, and so it is with this fly. Closer to the tail, it is darker but nearest the wing it is Snow White - just like Fred's hair!

For a wing, I used the variegated lemon-yellow flank feathers of the wood duck. Then to suggest more gold, I merged another feather of the Golden Pheasant. As we all know, Fred was in the US Air Force. He wore those golden pilot wings proudly and this fly's namesake recalls Fred's honorable service to our country.

For a dry fly hackle, I used a brown grizzly. "Oh My" Fred would say whenever we spoke of fishing in Alaska where grizzly bear encounters are quite common. Fred had a passion for wildlife and fishing and his travels around Alaska (as well as other parts of the Country and world for that matter) gave him a perspective that he always taught to kids.

He loved the Au Sable River. As a youth he lived in the area where his dad was a Michigan State Forester who helped restore vegetative cover to the deep sands of the region. It is for this reason that this fly has that river name in its title.

The Gamakatsu hook I used was selected for several reasons. First, they are of the best quality. They also are a relatively new hook with unique shape. I had them in my hook box here in R.I. and they seem to call out to me. Maybe it was Fred looking over my shoulder. They are barbless with an extra-long point section. I think they will hold the fish better yet make for a quicker release.

I am certain this pattern will catch fish."

Contents

** These flies are often featured at major events, like National Jamborees, National Order of the Arrow Conferences, VenturingFests, etc. If you only tie these five flies, you will learn all the basic skills you need to tie hundreds of other fish-catching patterns.*

Introduction

The great American conservationist and author, Aldo Leopold, in his book ***The Sand County Almanac*** stated that double is the pleasure of an angler who catches a fish on a fly he or she has tied. You are about to do just that! With your skill and guile, you will create, with commonly available materials, something a fish believes to be worthy of eating. Awesome!

I've always said that if you enjoy fishing, I don't care what style of fishing you use - bait, lure, spin or even cane pole. Then I add, if your goal is to catch a lot of fish - and I mean a lot of fish - you surely need to add fly fishing to your skill set. Why? Because a fly angler can deliver a fly to a fish that mimics closely in size, shape, texture, color and silhouette what a fish expects to see. Flies can be ultra-small - so small as to fit into the ear of President Roosevelt on a dime - to very large.

If an angler, using various techniques, can make a fly behave the way the predator expects its prey to behave - whack - Fish On! That's the game. Determine where the fish are likely to be, deliver a fly that mimics closely what it is feeding on and then make it behave in a natural way. Use proper hook setting techniques and you will catch a lot of fish - guaranteed.

Bob's Clouser

There are two basic types of flies - wet flies and dry flies. Wet flies are fished underwater where most fish do most of their feeding most of the time. When the fish strikes, you need to strip-set the hook by pulling the fly line back toward you. Dry flies, on the other hand, float, so using your rod tip to set the hook like in lure angling is the best technique.

Remember, your job as an angler is to make that fish strike your fly. You are a hunter and you want to provoke an attack. Be the fly!

Robert J. Sousa, Ph.D.

Certified Fisheries Scientist

Best Practices

Ugly flies catch fish, pretty flies catch fishermen, but a well-tied fly catches both. This is why it's important to not only tie effective patterns but to tie correct patterns, especially when you are just beginning to tie your own. This means that your flies should be proportional (more on this later), use materials from a recipe (until you're ready to create something original), be tied using the right techniques to make the fly look as intended, and be durable enough to make it worth your time to tie. You will get a great satisfaction out of tying flies when they are correctly tied, look good, behave well, and of course catch fish!

Fly tying best practices include hints from many amateur and professional fly tyers, and are offered here as "food for thought". If you have a method that works better for you than these, by all means use it. Most tips are from an online article at https://thecatchandthehatch.com/guide-tying-better-flies/.

Perfect Proportions

Tying perfect proportions is probably one of the hardest things to do in fly tying, but it is one of the most important. You want to tie just the right amount of materials on to achieve the correct profile in length, height and girth, so the fly will look and behave like the real thing. When you hear advice to go down a size or two when fish refuse your fly, it's often due to proportions being too large on the fly you are fishing. As you'll see, you can use the hook as a guide to help you get the proportions just right.

You'll often hear that you should tie in the tails to ¾ the hook size, or 1½ hook gaps, or two eyelets back, etc. Using the hook itself as a measurement tool helps you size up and size down based on the hook size while keeping uniform proportions to match the pattern. A size 20 pheasant tail nymph has the same relative tail length as a size 10 pheasant tail nymph, because the tail length is based on hook size.

Fly Size

Start with larger patterns. Dexterity and good tying technique are skills developed over time. Starting with small patterns can lead to frustration and a poor learning experience. Start tying with larger hooks like a #10 or #12 or larger, then work your way down to smaller stuff. Develop good dexterity and technique first, and you'll work your way to smaller patterns with less frustration.

Practice Makes Perfect

Knowing a pattern and having experience in how to tie it will help with proportions. Knowing when you can make one wrap instead of 5, or learning to tie in multiple materials at once to reduce bulk in your pattern is a sign you've learned the pattern well. Tie a lot of a single pattern and look for ways to keep a slim profile.

Do Less

When you can, do 2 wraps instead of 4, tie in 3 fibers instead of 6, use less dubbing, etc. Remember that the hook diameter will already add some width to your fly pattern. Once you add body materials, they can greatly increase the girth. Most insect bodies aren't wider than 2-3 hook wire diameters, so tying beyond that in most cases is not necessary. This is especially true when tying dry flies because fat flies won't look right or behave well. Don't sacrifice durability for doing less, but don't do more just because you can. When in doubt, keep your patterns sparse.

Fly Tying Videos

Fly tying videos really help show not only what the proportions should be but how to achieve those proportions. Pictures only help with half the battle when getting the proportions right. Do your best to find a good video with an experienced tyer and you'll learn the right way to tie and achieve good proportions. With time and practice you will develop good proportions both on the materials and how they are applied to the hook.

This also an excellent way to see some key fly-tying techniques in action.

Use Correct Materials

You wouldn't make pizza dough by substituting sugar for flour. Flour and sugar look similar, but their properties are so different you're going to end up making sugar cookies instead of pizza crust. The same is true for fly tying. While there are many materials you can substitute without any issues, you need to understand those materials' properties before making a substitution. You can substitute 140 denier thread for 70 denier thread, but you have to understand that you are going to create more bulk on the fly with the same number of wraps. This may be OK, given a certain pattern, but you need to understand the properties of materials before you substitute.

Most patterns have gone through many variations and tests over a number of years, and the creator knows what works and what doesn't work. As you improve,

you'll find that substituting materials can work out well for your pocketbook, but if you can afford it, stick to the recipe.

Understand What You Tie

There are roughly 12 categories of insects, each with 2-4 stages that change in size and shape and color as the insect matures. This gives you about 40 or so different insect/stage combinations to cover. Then you have different colors and sizes to imitate different species during different times of the year. Most insects have a 4-6 size range and 2-3 different colors they can be tied in. If you do the math, you can see that there are thousands of combinations we try to imitate as anglers. To top that all off, we tie all sorts of flies that look like nothing in nature to attract fish.

Tie in Dozens

You can understand a pattern by tying one or two, but you can't perfect a pattern without at least tying a dozen. But isn't it boring to tie that many of a single pattern? Yes, but luckily there's a tip on that too. Take a Mercury Midge for example. Simple to tie, but portions and practice make the fly perfect. Midges can be tied in sizes 16 – 24 and in nearly any color you like. Why not pick 6 of your favorite colors and tie two of each color in each size. That's 10 of each color in 6 different sizes. At the end of mastering the mercury midge, you will have a fully stocked midge box ready to handle any season and a backup of each fly once it starts working. That's the same pattern, changing thread color, and you get a ton of variety.

When the patterns get more advanced, like a Royal Wulff, you will learn that tying at least of dozen of the pattern really helps you master it. Commit in your mind that you are learning a new pattern and don't leave that pattern until you've mastered it or run out of materials.

Lay Out Materials First

Assembly lines are proven to increase productivity. Doing one step at a time when preparing materials saves you time and frustration when tying. If your recipe calls for 3 pheasant tail fibers for the tail, pre-cut out 3 for each fly you're going to tie. Then when it comes to tying in the tail, it's a quick grab, measure and tie in, instead of setting everything down and doing it one at a time.

This saves you time and keeps your flies looking more uniform. Matching the tails to the last set of tails helps you keep uniformity to your pattern, which is what

you're looking for if you're tying right. This is also great for durability. Doing head cement or UV resin all at once helps you be more uniform and faster at adding durability. Create a drying space in your fly-tying desk and leave room for your prepared materials as you tie.

Achieve Perfection

If fly tying was about just tying flies to catch fish, then peacock herl on a hook would be all you need. Fly tying is so much more than that. Like any art or craft, the details, process and end result are all important. Tie each fly to your highest standard and you'll enjoy your flies so much more when fishing them - and the fish will too.

It's OK to start over. You don't have to live with a mistake. Most mistakes can be undone by unwrapping the thread or wire that secures the mistake in place. Throw out any broken or damaged materials and start over. Using pliers, you can even grab the fly, cut off all the materials and start over with a bare hook. Don't be afraid to do this on existing flies that have been chewed or otherwise damaged and need re-tying or even as you're tying one and make a mistake that requires you start over from scratch.

Tie slow as you learn a new pattern. Don't tie so fast you make mistakes. Some people can tie fast, but they have probably tied hundreds if not thousands of that pattern and they know exactly what to do. As you are going along, slow down at the hardest parts.

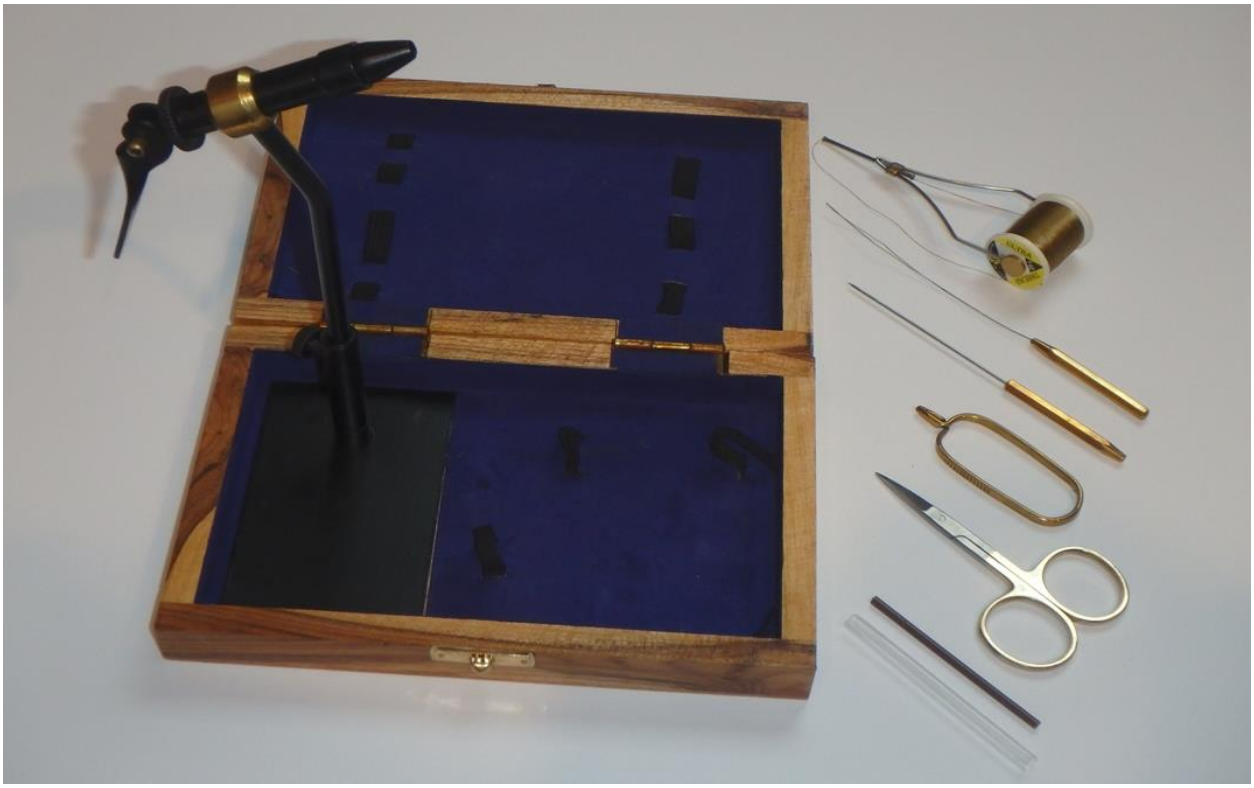
Basic Tools

Fly tying, like many crafts, uses some unique tools and techniques. You don't need many special tools to get started, and some can be avoided by using common household items or just your fingers.

Vise - A simple, sturdy vise is the basic foundation for fly tying. There are many types, ranging widely in quality, features and price. Most vises use simple, cam-actuated, steel jaws to firmly grip a wide range of hook sizes. Whatever you select, make sure it's sturdy so it will last for many years. The vise shown on the next page is part of a fly-tying tool kit that includes the following tools.

Bobbin - Perhaps the next most important tool is a thread bobbin, shown to the right of the kit box on the next page. This simple device holds and controls the thread as you tie your flies. Most of them use spring tension to hold the spool of

thread between two knobs, which fit into the holes on each end of the spool. The thread is fed through a tube in the bobbin.



Bobbin Threader - This tool, the next in line, is used to feed thread through the bobbin tube. To use it, just pass the wire loop down through the tube, insert the thread in the wire loop, and pull it up through the tube.

Bodkin - With this simple tool, basically a needle with a handle, you can pick out material after it's tied to the hook, apply a small drop of cement to secure the head of your fly, clean out excess cement from the hook eye, and more. Some of them include a hole in the end of the handle that serves as a half hitch tool.

Hackle Pliers - Basically a spring clip used to grab the end of a hackle feather, they come in several styles and help you to turn hackle evenly around the hook. If you need one, keep it simple, but get one that won't slip or grab the feather so tight that it breaks it. Many fly tiers just use their fingers to wrap hackle.

Scissors - There are many types of scissors used in fly tying. To start, all you need is a fine-tipped pair for delicate work and a larger pair for general work. Use the larger pair to cut tough materials like synthetic fibers, flash, and wire. Keep the fine pair for softer materials like hackle, natural hair and thread. Keep all your scissors razor sharp for the best performance.

Half Hitch Tool - This simple tool helps you to tie the half hitch knot to either secure material as you tie or to finish off the fly when you're done. The tool is often a hexagonal metal rod, tapered and hollowed out at each end. The parts of a ballpoint pen or a small straw (shown here) can also be used instead of buying a special tool.

Other tools are available, but are not needed for the beginner. If you get serious about your own tying, you may want to invest in one or more of these.

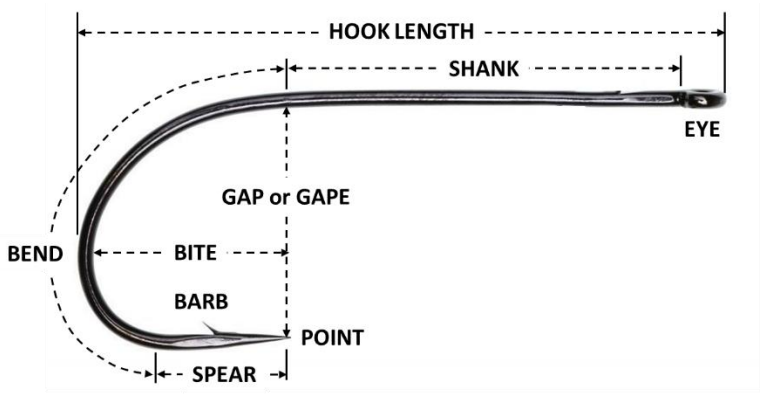
Hair Stacker - This tool is used to even up the ends of hair used for wings, collars and tails. To use it, cut a clump of hair from the skin, clean out any fuzzy underfur with your fingers or a fine comb, and put the hair tips into the stacker. Tap the stacker gently on the table, and then hold the stacker on its side, separate the tube from the base, and remove the hair.

Dubbing Spreader - Forming a dubbed body is a somewhat advanced technique. Typically, the thread is rubbed with a sticky wax, chopped fur or other fine materials are spun on the waxed thread, and the resulting "rope" is wrapped on the hook. Another method uses a loop of waxed thread to capture the fur, which is then spun to form a rough "chenille" that can be wrapped on the hook. A dubbing spreader is used to hold the loop open while you put the fur in it and spread it out evenly before spinning.

Dubbing Rake - Sometimes, after a fly body is formed, the fly tyer wants to "scruff up" the dubbing to give the fly a fuzzy appearance. A dubbing rake can be used for this, or you can use a piece of Velcro, an old toothbrush, a small caliber bore brush, or your fingernails.

Hooks

Most manufacturers use a numerical scale to describe hook size. The larger the number, the smaller the hook. A size 14 hook, for example, is smaller than a size 10 hook.



Bend - Hooks come in many shapes or styles, usually defined by the shape of the

bend and eye. Some bend styles include Aberdeen, Perfect, Beak, Sneck, Dublin, Wilson, York, Sproat, O'Shaughnessy, Limerick and Continuous. Most flies are tied on just a few hook styles.

Eye - The eye of the hook is where the fly is tied to the leader tippet. It may be turned up, straight, or turned down, depending on the type of fly and how it is tied to the tippet.

Shank - This is the part of the hook where most of the materials are tied to form the fly. It is often straight, but may be curved or even kinked. Its length may be standard, short (1XS, 2XS, etc.) or long (1XL, 2XL, etc.). A 2XL hook, for example, has a shank as long as a hook two sizes larger.

Point - The point is the sharp end of the hook that penetrates the mouth of a fish. The shape and sharpness of the point determines how well it penetrates. Point types include needle point, rolled-in, hollow, spear, beak, mini-barb, semi-dropped and knife-edge. Keep your hook points razor sharp!

Barb - The barb can improve the holding power of the hook once a fish is hooked. Many anglers use barbless hooks or crush the barb with pliers before they tie a fly. We highly recommend it. This makes it easier to hook the fish and to remove the hook from the fish, you or your merit badge counselor!

Gape (or Gap) - This is the distance from the shank to the point of the hook. This distance, and the shape and sharpness of the point, are important for consistently hooking fish. A hook's size is often based on its gape, which should be selected based on the type and size of fish you want to catch.

Bite (or Throat) - This is the distance from a line drawn between the hook's point and shank to the bottom of its bend (see the picture). This distance must be deep enough for the hook to penetrate past the barb. Some barbless hooks have a deep bite for better holding power.

Material - Hooks are usually made of very stiff wire from high-carbon steel, steel alloyed with Vanadium, or stainless steel. The first two are often coated to reduce corrosion and are primarily used in fresh water. Stainless steel is often used in salt water because it is very corrosion resistant. Hook wire diameter varies with hook size. Its diameter may be standard, fine (1XF, 2XF, etc.) or heavy (1XH, 2XH, etc.). A 2XH hook, for example, is made of wire like a standard hook two sizes larger.

Materials

Fly tying materials include anything used to construct a fly on a hook. Materials not only include all sorts of natural and dyed furs, hairs and feathers, but a wide array of synthetics.

Natural materials include furs from rabbits, minks, foxes, muskrats, bears and squirrels; hair from deer, elk and moose; and feathers from chickens, pheasants, turkeys, ducks, geese and partridges.

Synthetic materials have allowed fly tiers to replace rare and sometimes illegal and endangered furs and feathers as well as create completely new types of flies. Synthetics include rubber legs; foam strips, cylinders and pre-molded parts; plastic tubing, sheets and cords; chenilles and yarns; and all sorts of flashy materials that can be used to build tails, wings, bodies and other parts.

Adhesives such as silicone, epoxy, super glue, lacquer and other modern materials are used in artificial flies to secure the final thread wraps or to coat the entire head or body of the fly for durability, extra weight, and to build a lifelike shape. Clear or colored fingernail polish makes a great (and inexpensive) sealer and adhesive.

Wire is used for extra weight and ribbing. Lead wire is the traditional method of weighting flies, but lead-free wires are becoming very popular and are recommended. Copper and brass wires are great for ribbing.

Beads, cones and dumbbells of glass, plastic, copper, brass, nickel, tin, lead and tungsten are used, primarily at the head of the fly, to add weight, flash, and visual appeal. A front-weighted fly swims up and down when jigged.

Threads include Monocord, GSP (gel-spun polyethylene), nylon, Kevlar and others. Most are made to be strong but thin to minimize thread buildup or bulk. They come in several different sizes (diameters) and many colors, and some are pre-waxed. Waxed threads are good because they tend to hold materials in place between tying steps and because they're good for dubbing.

Selecting Materials

If you are just starting to tie your own flies, then following a well-known pattern or recipe is best as you build your skills on your first few flies. In addition to those that are included here, there are many patterns available on the Internet and in many fly-fishing books and magazines.

The materials list for each pattern describes what works best for the fly, and will sometimes suggest alternatives. As you gain experience, you may want to create your own patterns using materials you choose. You should match the colors, textures, stiffness, and other characteristics of your materials to the characteristics of the prey that the fish expect to see.

Preparing Materials

Why spend time on preparing and grooming the materials? Most dyed materials haven't been washed properly after the dye bath. In some cases, color from one material will bleed into another when a wet fly is put back in your fly box. Imagine a fly with a white wing and a dyed red hackle. If the materials haven't been prepared properly, the white wing may end up pale pink in time.

Most materials improve in quality after a good wash and a gentle drying. Hackles assume their natural shape and are much easier to use. With the feathers in their own natural shape, it's faster and easier to judge length of barbules and the taper of the feather. Hair materials probably benefit the most. Combing removes unwanted underfur and fluff that creates unwanted bulk on the hook. Washing cleans the hair and makes it much easier to tie with, leading to better and more attractive flies.

Even natural dubbing can benefit from a wash. You won't see a great improvement in quality, but you get rid of excess dye and the little pieces of hide that are sometimes present. Once completely dry, you can also give many dubbings a whirl in a small coffee grinder. You can create your own custom dubbing by adding furs and other materials together, and then blending them to get the color, texture and flash you want. Don't use Mom's grinder - no-one wants hair in their coffee!

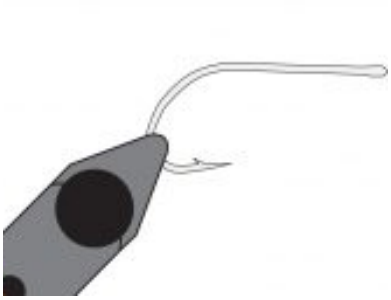
Storing Materials

After you have prepared your materials, store them in labeled Ziploc bags or plastic bins to keep them organized and to keep insects and other critters from destroying them. Adding a few moth flakes is sometimes a good idea, but don't overdo it. Since direct sunlight will cause some materials to fade with time, store the containers in a dark, dry place.

Fly Tying Techniques

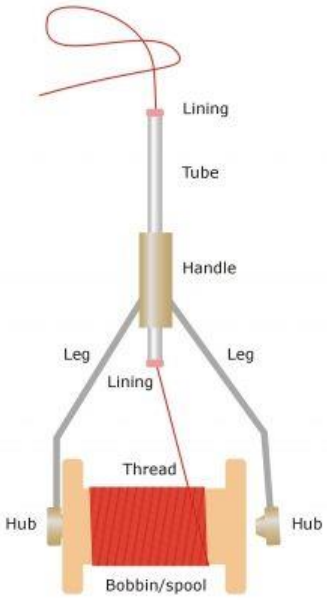
These techniques are common to many of the fly patterns in this handbook. They assume you are right-handed. For lefties, please reverse the instructions.

Securing the Hook



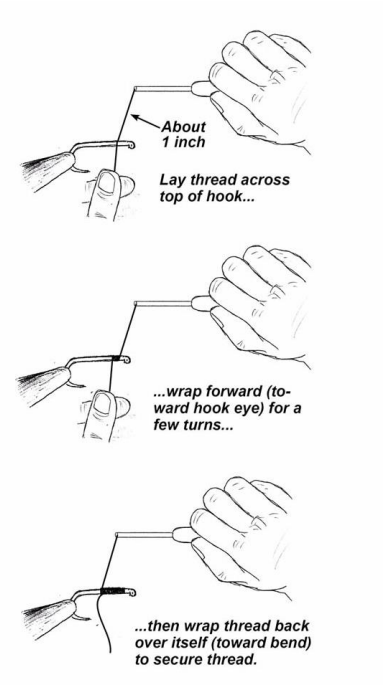
Properly placing the hook in the vise is important for trouble-free fly tying. The jaws should grip the hook ***firmly*** on the ***lower*** part of the bend so you have room to secure materials at the rear of the shank. The hook shank should be ***parallel*** to the work table and the point and barb should be slightly exposed.

Setting up the Bobbin



To set up the bobbin, insert the thread spool between the bobbin hubs and pull out a few inches of thread. Use a bobbin threader or a dentist's floss threader, inserted in the bobbin tube, to capture the thread and pull it up the tube. If you don't have a threader, you can slide the cleanly-cut end of the thread into the bottom of the tube and gently slide it up the tube. While tying, the bobbin is normally held so the spool is in the palm of your hand, your thumb and forefinger grip the handle and the tube is pointed ***parallel*** to the hook shank. To set the tension on your bobbin, see https://thefeatherbender.com/setting-your-bobbin-tension/.

Laying in the Thread



A base wrap of thread serves as the foundation of your fly. It must be snug and well-placed.

1. Hold the bobbin horizontally in your right hand with the tube pointing left.
2. Grab the tag end of the thread in your left hand and lay the thread over the top of the hook shank, forming an "X".
3. Make several wraps of thread up and away, over the hook shank, and then wrap back over the wraps you just made to lock the thread.

When tying a fly, the thread should always be under control with some tension. If slack is allowed, materials will come loose. For a good video, see https://thefeatherbender.com/attaching-tying-thread-thread-control/.

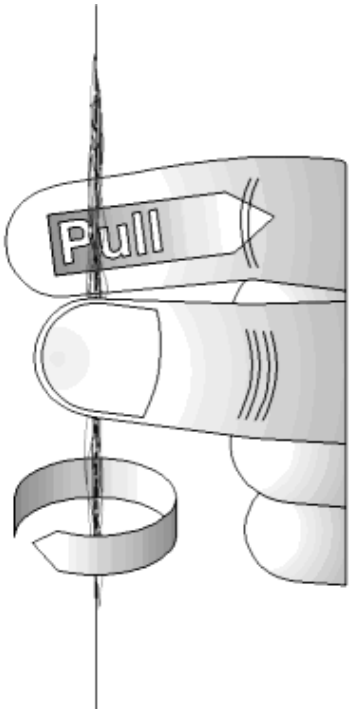
Tying Materials on the Hook

There are a number of special techniques used to tie in materials on the hook to make a fly. These techniques are used to make the flies in this handbook.

Pinch Technique - When material is wrapped on top of the hook, the thread tends to pull the material around the hook away from you. This is called ***thread torque***. To solve this, either place the material on the side of the hook nearest you so it rolls up into the position you want, or use the ***pinch technique*** to hold the material firmly in place while you attach it. To do this, pinch the material snugly on top of the hook between your left-hand thumb and forefinger.

Draw the thread up between these fingers, and then down over the material, between the fingers and behind the hook. Draw the thread straight down to capture the material on top of the hook. Repeat a few more times to tightly bind the material in place.

Dubbing - The most common method is direct dubbing or touch dubbing.



Rub a thin coat of tacky dubbing wax on the thread. Rub your fingers up and down the thread to spread the wax evenly. Now take a pinch of fine fur, stretch it out a bit, then twirl it on the waxed thread in one direction only. Wrap the dubbed thread on the hook to form the body.

For large flies, you can create a loop of thread, distribute dubbing between the threads of the loop, spin the loop to lock the dubbing, wrap the loop on the hook and tie off with the thread. This allows the use of longer fibers and makes a very durable fly.

Palmering - To palmer a material, such as hackle, it is first tied in at the front or rear of the body. The body is normally built, and then the hackle is wound in open turns to the other end and tied off.

The conventional method is to tie in the material at the rear of the body, build the body, then palmer the material forward, tie off and cut the excess.

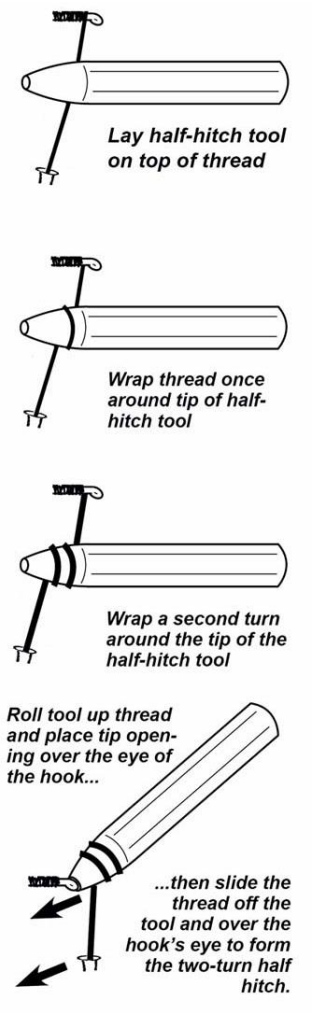
A more durable method uses a ribbing wire or strong thread (GSP or Kevlar). The wire or thread is normally tied in at the tail end. The hackle is tied in at the head of the body and palmered down to the tail in open turns. The wire or thread is then wound from the tail to the head in open turns to cross over and secure the hackle, and then tied off at the head. The hackle and wire or thread are then trimmed. This makes a very durable fly.

Half Hitch - Assuming you are using a half hitch tool or a small tube (like a hollow coffee stirrer straw):

1. Hold the thread bobbin in your <u>left</u> hand and pull it toward you.
2. Holding the tool in your <u>right</u> hand, lay the tool on <u>top</u> of the thread.
3. Wrap the thread <u>once</u> or <u>twice</u> around the end of the tool. The figure shows two turns.
4. Place the hollow end of the tool against the hook eye.
5. Slide the knot off the tool, making sure it goes over the head wraps.
6. Repeat several times to fully secure the fly.

If you don't have a tool handy, you can use your finger! Just wrap the thread loosely around the end of your finger, push it up to the hook eye, and slip the knot off, making sure it goes where you want it.

If desired, you can seal the knots by using a drop or two of fingernail polish.



Fly Patterns

Fly patterns come in a huge variety of styles, colors, and sizes for countless fish species. Flies can be specific imitations of various prey or simply "attractors" that try to provoke strikes with unique color or movement. Flies are generally considered to be **dry flies** (flies that sit or move on the surface) or **wet flies** (flies that drift or swim under the surface). A third category (flies that sit both on and under the surface) include emergers and are sometimes called **damp flies**.

Flies are often tied to look and behave like a specific food item. This is called **matching the hatch** and it is one of the most important principles in fishing, especially fly fishing. If you see fish actively feeding on a specific insect, baitfish or other food item, then you should choose a fly that closely imitates that item. If you can't figure out what the fish might be eating, you can choose your fly and how to

fish it based on your knowledge of the type of food items that live in the waters you fish (from past experience, from an experienced fly fisher, from a local fly shop, or from the Internet).

Aquatic insects may live a year or more underwater as nymphs before they emerge and hatch into their adult form. As they transform from nymph to adult, they often swim to the surface (simulated by wet flies), shed their skin at the surface (simulated by emergers), and emerge as an adult (simulated by dry flies).

Wet Flies - Flies that are fished beneath the surface are called wet flies. This includes **nymphs**, classical **wet flies**, **streamers** and others. Since fish do most of their feeding beneath the surface, this is an important fly category.

Nymphs and Pupae - These are the immature stage of numerous aquatic insects. Nymphs and pupae live in a number of different habitats, including weeds, wood debris, rocks, gravel and silt. They try to hide from predators but are sometimes washed out as they move about to seek food or shelter. The fish are watching and waiting, and sometimes actively grub out these critters to eat.

Wet Flies - Traditional wet flies are typically tied to simulate aquatic insects that are rising to the surface, transforming from nymph to adult. They are usually fished just under the surface and either drifted or gently pulsed to make them look alive. Some wet flies can resemble very small baitfish when stripped through the water.

Streamers - These simulate the baitfish that other fish like to eat. They are tied in many styles and are made of many different materials, both natural and synthetic. Streamer patterns have been created for both freshwater and saltwater applications, and some, like the Clouser Minnow, are good at both.

Crustaceans - These include shrimp, crayfish, crabs, scuds, snails and others. Some are found in freshwater and others in saltwater. All can be simulated by carefully crafted flies.

Others - Besides insects, baitfish and crustaceans, there are many critters that share habitat with predatory fish. They include worms (aquatic and terrestrial), eels, salamanders, etc.

Damp Flies - These flies are sometimes grouped in either dry flies or wet flies, but deserve a category of their own.

Emergers - Often grouped under dry flies, these flies simulate the sometimes-brief stage when an aquatic insect has arrived at the surface, penetrated the

surface film, and is shedding its nymphal shuck to emerge as an adult. Insects are vulnerable during this time, stuck in the surface film, and the fish know it.

Bass Bugs, Poppers and Sliders - Bass bugs, poppers and sliders typically simulate frogs, mice and other critters that live either in or near water, or have accidentally fallen into the water. Most of these can be considered damp flies since they sit or swim in the surface film, with their tails under water and their bodies floating half in and half out of the water. These flies are used in both freshwater and saltwater. Very small poppers and sliders can be used to simulate insects struggling in the surface film.

Dry Flies - The dry fly category includes both aquatic insects and terrestrial insects. Some anglers consider this the most exciting form of fly fishing because the strike of the fish can be seen.

Aquatic Insects - Aquatic insects live a large portion of their life in the water, then "hatch" into a flying adult form. They include mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, damselflies, mosquitos, blackflies, etc. They sometimes hatch in vast numbers and are very important to fish, some birds, and bats as a food source.

Terrestrial Insects - Terrestrial insects are typically born and live on land, but accidentally fall or intentionally dive into the water. They include ants, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, etc. They can be just as important as aquatic insects to fish (and you) when the conditions are right.

The following pages include simple and effective fly patterns you may want to try.

Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear (nymph)

Materials:

Hook	Mustad 3906B or equivalent, sizes 10-14
Weight	Medium lead-free wire
Thread	6x or 140 denier (brown)
Tail	Pheasant tail fibers
Rib	Medium or fine wire (gold)
Abdomen	Hare's mask dubbing (natural)
Thorax	Hare's mask dubbing

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the barb and insert the hook in the vise.
2. Wrap the shank with 8-10 turns of lead-free wire so they cover the front 1/3 of the shank. Leave room between the wire wraps and the eye for the head.
3. Start the thread immediately behind the wire wraps and build up a 'dam' of thread to hold the wire in place. Advance the thread wraps over the wire up to the hook eye, reverse to the rear, and stop at a point between the hook point and barb.
4. Cut 10-14 pheasant tail fibers from the feather and even up the tips. Secure the fibers on top of the hook with approximately ¼" of the tips forming a tail to the rear, then advance the thread forward over the butt ends of the PT fibers to lead-wrapped section. Do not cut the butt ends.
5. Secure a piece of rib wire to the far side of the hook just behind the lead-free wire, then make thread wraps over the wire to the bend, stopping where the tail fibers were tied in.
6. Hold a small bundle of hare's mask dubbing loosely in your left hand, moisten the tips of the right hand and then remove some of the dubbing from the bundle. Using your right hand, twist a small amount of dubbing counter-clockwise onto the thread, making a tight dubbing noodle approximately 1" long.
7. Wrap the dubbing noodle forward to the back edge of the lead-free wire, forming a tapered abdomen. Strip off any excess dubbing and make 1 or 2 turns of bare thread to secure the dubbing.
8. Counter-wrap the rib wire 4-5 times over the dubbing, stopping just behind the lead-free wire. Make several thread wraps behind and in front of the loose end of the gold wire, then 'helicopter' or cut the wire (use wire cutters rather than tying scissors).
9. Dub another section of the thread approximately 1" long, and (*while holding the PT butt fibers out of the way*) dub a thick thorax forward to approximately 1/8" behind the hook eye.
10. Pull the PT butt fibers forward and secure with several thread wraps immediately behind the hook eye. Carefully cut off the excess, make several additional wraps and add some half hitches.
11. (optional) Add a small amount of head cement to secure the head wraps.

* Bead Head Pheasant Tail (nymph)

Materials:

Hook	Standard-length, wet/nymph or curved scud (shown), sizes 8-18
Bead	Brass bead to match hook[1]
Thread	3/0 (210 Denier), color to match body
Rib	Fine copper wire
Tail	Pheasant tail fibers
Body	Pheasant tail fibers
Thorax	Peacock herl (optional)

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb.
2. Slide the bead onto the hook with the small hole forward against the hook eye, then set the hook in the vise.
3. Lay in the thread just behind the bead and cover the hook shank to just above the barb.
4. Tie in a piece of fine copper wire on the side of the hook shank so the end sticks out beyond the hook bend.
5. Tie in 4 to 6 long pheasant tail fibers so the tips form a short tail, then lift the pheasant tail fiber butts and wrap the thread 2/3 of the way toward the hook eye under the pheasant tail fiber butts.
6. Wrap the pheasant tail fiber butts in closely-spaced turns, forming a tapered abdomen like a carrot. The abdomen should cover about 2/3 of the hook shank. Tie off and clip excess pheasant tail fibers.
7. Counter-wrap the copper wire in an open spiral all the way up the abdomen. Tie off and helicopter or clip excess. This reinforces the fly, provides a rib, and adds a little flash.
8. To make the thorax, tie in 2-3 strands of peacock herl and then wrap the thread to just behind the bead. (optional) Add some head cement to the hook shank for durability. Wrap the peacock herl in closely-spaced turns up to the bead, tie off and clip the excess.
9. Finish by adding a few half hitches or a whip finish just behind the bead to secure everything, clip the excess thread, and (optional) add a small drop of head cement to the half hitches with your bodkin to make the fly more durable.

Note 1 - 5/64” for #18, 3/32” for #16, 7/64” for #14, 1/8” for #12, 5/32” for #10 and #8

Utah Killer Bug (nymph or scud)

Materials:

Hook	Curved scud or wet fly, #12-16
Weight	.025”-.015” lead-free wire
Thread	6/0 UV-reflective, pink or orange
Body	Jamieson’s Shetland Spindrift yarn #290 - Oyster (or other tan yarn or dubbing)

Pink & Tan Killer Bug - Dry

Orange & Tan Killer Bug - Wet

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb
2. Coat the shank with head cement and lay in 8-10 wraps of lead-free wire.
3. Attach the thread in front of the wire, wind a small thread dam in front of the wire, and then spiral the thread over the wire several times, ending at the rear. Build a small thread dam behind the wire. This begins to form a smooth foundation for the yarn body.
4. Tie in the yarn behind the wire, leaving a tag end that reaches to the front end of the wire. Over-wrap the yarn, continuing to form a smooth thread underbody. Stop wrapping about one eye width behind the hook eye. Note that there are a few thread wraps behind the yarn - this will form a small “hot spot”.
5. If desired, coat the tapered thread underbody wraps with a thin coat of head cement for durability.
6. Twist the yarn tightly counter-clockwise (if right-handed) or clockwise (if left-handed) so it will form a compact, ribbed body. Wrap the yarn forward, twisting as you go, and tie off one eye width from the hook eye. Note that there’s only one layer of yarn - this is so the bright underbody will show through when the fly gets wet.
7. Cut the excess yarn, form a small thread head, finish with a few half hitches or a whip finish, and (if desired) coat the head with cement. Rough up the body with a dubbing rake, Velcro, old toothbrush, wire brush or fingernail to make it fuzzy.

* Woolly Worm (wet fly)

The Woolly Worm fly probably originated in the 1600s as the Palmer Worm. This fly was created to mimic the hairy "palmer" caterpillar, which got its name from the pilgrims (palmers) who wandered throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. It's a very old pattern.

Materials:

Hook	Regular wet/nymph hook, size 8-14
Bead	(optional) Gold, copper, brass or silver to fit hook
Weight	(optional) Lead-free wire, diameter to match hook wire diameter
Thread	3/0 (210 Denier), black or to match body color
Tail	Red, orange or yellow yarn (or rabbit fur to match body color)
Body	Yellow, brown, olive or black chenille, yarn, dubbing or peacock herl
Hackle	Hen or soft rooster hackle, grizzly, black or to match body

Palmer Worm

Woolly Worm (without bead)

1. Crush the hook barb and (optional) slide a bead on the hook up to the eye with the small hole forward.
2. (optional) Wrap 4-5 turns of lead-free wire on the shank and slide them up into the bead to seat it. Cement if desired.
3. Start the thread behind the wire, lock the wire in place with a dam of thread and then put open crisscrossed thread wraps over the wire. If no wire is used, form a loose ball of thread and push it under the bead to seat it. Add cement if desired.
4. Cover the shank with thread down to the rear of the hook shank, leaving the thread there.
5. Tie in a sparse bunch of tail material at the rear of the hook shank. Cover the material with thread up to the wire, bead or hook eye.
6. Trim the front even with the rear of the wire (if present), bead (if present), or hook eye, and then trim the rear even with the hook bend to form a short tail as shown.
7. Clean and tie the hackle on top of the hook at the end of the hook shank by its butt end.
8. Tie the body material on top of the hook at the end of the hook shank.
9. Spiral the thread up to the bead or hook eye.
10. Wrap the body material in closely-spaced turns to the bead or hook eye, then tie off and trim the excess.
11. Wrap (palmer) the hackle in open turns to the bead or hook eye, then tie off and trim the excess.
12. Add a few half hitches or a whip finish behind the bead or hook eye and trim the excess. Add a drop of head cement if desired.

Hare's Ear Spider (wet fly)

Materials:

Hook	Mustad 3906B or equivalent, size 10-16
Thread	6/0 Black
Rib	Gold Mylar Tinsel
Body	Hare's Mask Dubbing
Hackle	Partridge Cape

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb.
2. Wrap the hook with thread, traveling down the hook shank and stopping above the hook point.
3. Tie in a piece of Mylar tinsel with the gold side facing down. Move the thread up the hook shank and then back down to cover the tinsel.
4. Wax the thread. Take and pinch some dubbing and stretch it out a bit. Twist the dubbing counter clockwise on the thread. The main reason to do this is so that the body is more durable.
5. Dub up toward the eye of the hook leaving about 2-3 eye lengths open. Leaving space allows room for the hackle.
6. Make 2-3 turns of tinsel at the base of the body. This will create a small tag and also allows you to make sure that the tinsel is facing the correct way, with the gold side showing. Wrap the tinsel forward in even turns. 4-5 turns are good for a #10 hook. On smaller hooks, you might make fewer wraps. Tie the tinsel off and clip the tag end.
7. Select an oversized hackle feather whose barbules are about 1½ times the hook gap. Tie in the hackle with the good (shiny) side out. Clip the stem of the feather off.
8. Wrap the hackle around the hook shank a couple of times. If the fibers get matted, twist them a bit with your fingers. If you don't like how the fibers lie, cock the head by twisting to get the hackle to lie straight.
9. After you cock the head and twist the fibers, wind the thread back into the hackle. This locks it into place and makes the fibers lie where you want them to be. This saves you from creating all sorts of difficult hackle folds and makes the hackle slope back. A correctly wrapped wet fly has a hackle wrapped in a cone shape like the one shown.
10. Make a few half hitches and cut off any tag ends of thread. You can rough up the body by rubbing it with a Velcro dubbing stick or a dubbing brush tool, or by picking it out with a bodkin.

Takayama Sakasa Kebari (wet fly)

Reverse hackle flies were developed in Japan (Sakasa Kebari), Italy (pesca mosca Valsesiana) and elsewhere centuries ago, and are becoming popular, especially for fixed-line (Tenkara) style fly fishing. The flies are often fished with a steady and gently-pulsed rhythm to activate the hackles and make the fly look like a living, struggling insect.

Materials:

Hook	Daiichi 1150 (barbless) or equivalent curved shank hook, size 8-14
Thread	Pearsall's Gossamer, scarlet
Head	Pearsall's Gossamer, scarlet
Hackle	Hen Pheasant
Thorax	Peacock Herl
Abdomen	Pearsall's Gossamer, scarlet

Tying Instructions:

1. Lay in a thread base on the front of the hook and build up a tapered head.
2. Tie in the hackle by its tip, behind the head, with the hackle extending over the hook eye, cupped side facing down. Wrap the thread rearward about one eye width.
3. Wrap the hackle rearward, about 3 wraps, folding the fibers forward with each wrap. Tie off and cut excess hackle stem. Build a small thread dam to keep the fibers angled forward at about 45 degrees.
4. Tie in one or two peacock herls, trim the excess, and bring the thread rearward about one eye width.
5. Wrap the herls rearward, tie off, and cut the excess herl.
6. Form a tapered thread body to just short of where you want it to end.
7. At the end of the final wrap rearward, go 3 wraps beyond the previous wraps and whip finish or add several half hitches.
8. (optional) Coat the thread body with head cement or UV-cured resin. If the body is made of real silk, it will darken in water if left uncoated. Sometimes, this is desired.

Other thread types and colors are useful, either to "match the hatch" or for variety. Olive, yellow, white, blue, purple, brown and black work. The body can also be made of pheasant tail fibers or other material to match the naturals or serve as an attractor. It can be ribbed with fine wire, tinsel or another color thread for segmentation.

Other hackles can also be used, such as rooster, hen, partridge, etc.

Woolly Bugger (streamer)

Materials:

Hook	3X or 4X long streamer hook, size 2 -12
Thread	3/0, color to match body
Weight	Lead-free wire and/or a metal bead at the head of the fly
Tail	Blood Marabou, color to match or contrast with the body
Flash	Krystal Flash, color to match the tail
Body	Chenille, color to match local forage (often olive, brown or black)
Hackles	Soft hackle, color to match or contrast body

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb.
2. (optional) Slide a metal bead up to the eye, wrap lead-free wire around the hook shank, or both.
3. ***Lay in*** thread on the hook, just behind the eye or bead. Cover the lead-free wire in crisscross wraps and wrap back to the end of the shank, just above the barb or tip. Coat the wire and wraps with head cement.
4. Roughly even the tips of a clump of marabou. Using the ***pinch technique***, tie the clump at the rear end of the hook shank so the marabou tail is no longer than the hook. Wrap thread over the marabou up to the lead wire or bead (if present) and back to the rear of the hook shank. Trim the excess marabou.
5. (optional) Tie in 2 or 3 strands of flash on each side of the tail and trim even with the tail.
6. Hold the hackle by the tip and gently stroke down the feather barbs toward the butt. Using the pinch technique, tie in the hackle by its tip, extending behind the hook, shiny side up, in the same spot as the tail. Trim any excess hackle tip.
7. Cut a section of chenille and pull off about ¼ inch of fibers from the core threads. Tie in the threads right where you just tied the tail and hackle.
8. Advance the thread to the eye or bead. Wind the chenille forward in closely-spaced turns and bind down with the thread, making sure not to crowd the eye. Trim excess chenille close to the hook.
9. ***Palmer*** the hackle forward in an open spiral, evenly spacing each wrap, to the front of the fly. Tie off, trim excess hackle, form a neat head, ***half hitch*** a few times, cut the thread, and apply a drop of head cement to secure the wraps.

Lefty's Deceiver (streamer)

Materials:

Hook	Mustad 34007 (salt) or 3366 (fresh), size 2 - 2/0
Thread	3/0 white, black, or to match topping
Weight	(optional) Lead-free wire
Body	Silver Mylar tinsel
Tail	4-6 Yellow saddle hackles, not splayed
Flash	(optional) Pearl Krystal Flash
Hackle	White bucktail on belly, chartreuse bucktail above
Throat	(optional) Red Krystal Flash
Topping	(optional) Peacock Herl

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb.
2. Lay in the thread and cover the hook shank.
3. (optional) Tie in a length of lead-free wire, about the same diameter as the hook wire, cover with thread wraps and (optional) coat with head cement.
4. Prepare and arrange 4-6 saddle hackles in a bunch so they are facing each other, 2-3 on a side, concave sides in. Make sure the tips are aligned. They should be about two times the length of the hook, with the stems reaching to just short of the eye.
5. Using the pinch technique, tie in the saddle hackle bunch just above the barb. Use gentle pressure at first to avoid twisting the hackles, then increase pressure as you wind toward the hook eye to make them secure.
6. (optional) Tie in a few strands of Krystal Flash on each side and run the thread forward.
7. Tie in silver Mylar tinsel behind the hook eye, wrap it in closely-spaced turns to the end of the hackle wraps, return, tie off, and clip excess.
8. Cut a bunch of white bucktail for the belly and sides. Clean out the fuzzy underfur, align the tips in a hair stacker or by hand, and tie the bunch in under the front of the fly. It is important that the hair extend back well past the bend to minimize fouling of the tail when casting.
9. Cut a smaller bunch of chartreuse bucktail for the top. Clean it, align the tips, and tie it on top of the hook, aligned with the belly.
10. (optional) Tie in a few short strands of red Krystal Flash for a throat.
11. (optional) Tie in a few strands of peacock herl for a topping.
12. Trim all loose ends, build a neat head, half hitch, and coat with a drop or two of head cement. Paint eyes on the head if desired.

Other color combinations include all Black, all White, Olive & Brown, all Chartreuse, Red & White, Red and Yellow, Blue & White, and Olive & White. Match the Krystal Flash to the hackle tail.

* Bead Eye Clouser Minnow (streamer)

Materials:

Hook	Standard-length, straight-eye saltwater (Mustad 34007) or freshwater (Mustad 3366) streamer hook, size 10-2
Thread	3/0 (210 Denier), color to match wing
Eyes	Bead chain to match hook size
Belly	Bucktail, white or other light color
Flash	Krystal Flash - pearl or other color to match belly or wing
Wing	Bucktail - tan, brown, grey, olive, chartreuse or other to complement the belly

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb and set the hook in the vise with the shank on top.
2. Lay in the thread behind the hook eye and build a thread base 2/3 of the way down the hook shank. Return the thread to about 1/3 of the way down the shank from the eye.
3. Nip off two beads from the chain and tie them in where the thread is hanging. Use a number of diagonal wraps in one direction, then the same number of wraps in the other direction, then a number of "frapping" wraps around the previous wraps to tighten them. Straighten the eyes, then (optional) add head cement or super glue to secure.
4. Cut and clean a sparse bunch of light bucktail. Remove any short or wild hairs and underfur.
5. Measure the bucktail to just over 2 times the hook length and cut the hair butts with a slight taper (not straight across). Add a drop of head cement to the hair butts (optional).
6. Lay the bucktail between the bead chain eyes so the butt ends just reach the back of the hook eye and then tie down with a few loose thread wraps. Keeping the hair under control, tighten the thread and lay in a few more snug wraps to secure the hair.
7. Run the thread under the bead chain eyes toward the rear of the fly, spiral a few loose wraps toward the rear of the fly to tie down the bucktail, spiral back to the bead chain eyes, and then back under the eyes to the front.
8. Turn the fly over in the vise so the hook point is up and the light belly hair is on the bottom. This is the position the fly will swim in the water.
9. Tie in four pieces of flash behind the hook eye so two pieces lie on each side of the hook bend. Trim the flash just beyond the tips of the belly hair.
10. Prepare a second bunch of bucktail, a bit larger than the belly hair bunch, add a dab of head cement (optional) and tie it in between the bead chain eyes and the hook eye. For a slender profile (like that shown) use firm wraps to secure the hair, then light thread wraps near the bead chain eyes to gently compress the hair and control the taper.
11. Form a neat head, tie off, cut the thread and (optional) seal the head with cement.

This fly can be tied in many color combinations and sizes to match local baitfish in both freshwater and saltwater. Stiff synthetics may be used instead of bucktail for the tail and wing, and are more durable for toothy fish. Other stiff hairs work well too.

Deer Hair Emerger (damp fly)

By Bob Wyatt, "*What Trout Want - The Educated Trout and Other Myths*"

This has proven a particularly hot design on the rivers of Alberta, British Columbia, New Zealand and Scotland, and has recently become Bob Wyatt's favorite dry fly. The quill abdomen version is a good bet for an early season olive hatch. The thick fur abdomen and peacock herl versions make excellent caddis emergers, and will out-fish a conventionally hackled dry caddis. The DHE incorporates an erect wing and hanging abdomen, both strong 'triggers' that attract fish. To fish, touch only the wing and thorax with floatant, to allow the abdomen to penetrate and hang below the surface.

Materials:

Hook	Kamasan B-100 or similar curved emerger style, size 14 - 10
Thread	6/0, slate grey
Wing	Medium to fine deer hair
Abdomen	Olive/brown mix of seal substitute and hare fur. Variants include seal substitute fur, stripped peacock quill, full peacock herl and pheasant tail
Thorax	Dubbed hare's mask. Use the spiky hair from the front of the face

Tying Instructions:

1. Wing: Tied in first, tips forward, butts tapered and wrapped down to the rear. Leave enough bare hook shank between wing base and eye for the thorax.
2. Wind tying thread back, well down the bend on hook shank, leaving a long tag of thread for use as a reinforcing rib.
3. Abdomen: Tie in, well down on hook bend, and wrap toward wing, covering tapered hair butts.
4. Wind tag-end of tying thread forward as rib, counter-clockwise to dubbing. Tie it off ahead of wing and take the thread forward to the hook eye.
5. Thorax: Tie in at eye and wind back to wing base, building a wedge of fur, and forcing the wing into a vertical attitude. Wind thread forward again, twice through dubbing, to eye. Whip finish. Pick out guard hair on thorax.

Lefty's Bug (damp fly)

By Bernard "Lefty" Kreh

Materials:

Hook	Standard 2XL streamer, size 12 - 2
Thread	Black or Tan, 6/0 or 3/0
Tail	Gray or red squirrel tail
Body	Small cork, about 1/2 total hook length
Paint	(optional) Yellow or other color model paint or fingernail polish

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb.
2. Lay in thread at the eye of the hook. Wind to the bend and back to the eye, covering the entire shank. Tie off and cut the thread.
3. Use a fine hacksaw blade or hobby saw to cut a groove fore and aft about 1/8" deep in the cork. You want to enclose the entire shank with the cork, but you do not want to narrow the gap, especially in the smaller sizes. You can flatten the bottom and face of the cork if desired to refine the shape.
4. Using five-minute epoxy or super glue, place a generous amount of glue into the slot of the cork and place it on the hook close to the eye. Align the hook and set it aside, upside down, to cure. You can fill the slot and cork pits later if you want, but the fish won't care.
5. Paint the cork if desired and set it aside to dry. If you use yellow, when the paint is dry it may have a mustard cast to it; this is what you want. If you seal the cork before painting, it will take the color faithfully and be brighter. Alternatively, you can leave the cork natural (as shown) or decorate it with waterproof markers.
6. (optional) Add painted or stick-on eyes after painting the body. Use a drop of epoxy or gel super glue for the stick-on eyes. Seal the whole cork with clear popper sealer or very thin epoxy if stick-on eyes are used.
7. (optional) Add rubber legs by running a needle through the body and drawing the rubber through so it sticks out both sides. Trim to length.
8. Return the hook with attached cork to the vise and lay in the thread behind the cork. Cut a small to mid-sized bunch of squirrel tail or similar hair. Using the pinch technique, bind it down with several wraps and follow by wrapping securely just to the barb. The tail should extend straight off the back about the length of the shank. Add a bit of clear fingernail polish to the wraps if desired for durability.

This pattern is not only easy to make, it casts very well and sits in the surface film with the tail down for good hooking. Consider building a bunch of cork bodies in different sizes and colors at one time. An interesting variation of this pattern includes a mop fiber tail and hackle collar. Paint the cork to match the mop fiber.

Sneaky Pete Slider (damp fly)

Materials:

Hook	2XL streamer, size 4, 6 or 8 to match the foam head
Thread	3/0, color to match hackle
Tail	Marabou or fine synthetic fibers
Legs	Medium or fine rubber strands
Collar	Saddle hackle
Head	Pre-shaped soft foam (with hole if possible), hard foam, or cork head
Eyes	Stick-on 3D plastic eyes
Glue	Foam-compatible gel super glue

Tying Steps

1. Fix the hook in the vise, lay in the thread behind the hook eye, and form a thread base to the middle of the shank.
2. Measure the popper head against the hook to determine the forward tie-in point.
3. Tie in a clump or two of marabou just behind the tie-in point, trim the butt ends at a taper and over-wrap with thread.
4. Tie in two rubber legs on each side of the tail by folding a piece of leg material over the thread, sliding it down to the hook, and over-wrapping to secure it in position. Do this for each side for a total of four legs.
5. Tie in the collar hackle just in front of the marabou tail tie-in point, then wrap the thread forward a bit. Wrap the hackle in 3-4 closely-spaced turns. Tie off and cut the excess. Form a gently-tapered thread base, whip finish, and cut the thread.
6. If your soft foam popper head doesn't already have a hole through it, carefully form a hole with your bodkin. If using hard foam or cork, cut a 1/8" deep slot in the bottom. Decorate the popper head with a permanent marker or compatible paint if desired.
7. Coat the tapered thread wraps with super glue and slide the popper head in place. Make sure it's properly aligned before the glue sets.
8. (optional) Poke a hole laterally through the popper head. Use a large needle to thread one or two rubber legs through the hole so they stick out evenly on each side. Add a small drop of super glue or head cement to each hole to secure the legs.
9. Add stick-on eyes if desired to each side of the popper head. A small drop of super glue behind each eye will make them more secure.
10. Make sure all the legs are separated, then cut them to the length you want.
11. Coat the popper head with a clear finish (head cement, UV resin, etc.) if desired.

Fish this pattern by giving it a couple of short strips, followed by a pause. Vary the length and timing of the strips as well as the length of the pause. Most fish will strike on the pause.

* Elk Hair Caddis (dry fly)

Materials:

Hook	Standard dry fly, sizes 10-16
Thread	3/0 or 6/0, color to match body
Rib	Extra fine copper wire
Body	Dry fly dubbing (or yarn) - tan, brown, olive, black or opal tinsel (for the "Opal and Elk")
Hackle	Stiff brown rooster hackle
Wing	Deer or elk hair, natural or bleached

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb and set the hook in the vise.
2. Attach the thread about two eye lengths back from the eye and wrap a thread base back to the bend. Spiral-wrap the thread back to the front, making a ridged foundation.
3. Tie in a length of extra fine copper wire and wrap the thread back over it to the bend. Keep the wire along the side of the shank.
4. Apply a thin, even layer of dubbing to the thread. Start wrapping the dubbing at the bend of the hook and work forward, forming a thin, slightly tapered body. If using yarn, tie in at the front, secure with thread to the bend and back, wrap the yarn forward in touching turns, wrap back over the front half of the first layer, then change directions and wrap forward to the front again, forming a tapered body. If using tinsel, tie in behind the eye, wrap back to the bend and return. Tie off the body material and cut off excess.
5. Select a brown rooster hackle that has a barb length equal to one and a half hook gaps. Prepare the feather by stripping away any fuzzy fibers. Tie the hackle feather in by its butt end at the front edge of the body with the inside (concave side) of the feather toward the body of the fly.
6. Grasp the tip of the hackle feather and palmer it back to the bend with six to seven evenly spaced turns.
7. Wrap the wire rib over the tip of the hackle feather one time, then continue spiraling the wire forward through the hackle, taking care not to bind down any fibers as you go.
8. Tie the wire off with the thread. Helicopter the wire to break off the excess and then snap the remaining tip of the hackle feather forward to break it off (or cut it off) as well.
9. Cut, clean and stack a medium-sized clump of elk or deer hair. Measure the hair so it reaches to the rear of the bend of the hook, then cut it at the back edge of the eye.
10. Pinch the hair on top of the hook with the butt ends at the back edge of the eye. Make four or five snug turns of thread to compress and slightly flare the hair.
11. Whip finish or half hitch the thread under the butt ends of the hair and clip the excess.
12. (optional) Add head cement to the thread wraps to help the wing stay in place.

Ted's Adams (dry fly)

Materials:

Hook	Standard dry fly, size 10-20
Thread	6/0 or 8/0, gray or black
Wing	Grade B grizzly hen hackle tips
Tail	Brown and grizzly hackle fibers
Underbody	Opal or Pearl Mylar tinsel
Body	Adams gray dubbing or muskrat fur
Hackles	Brown and grizzly

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb.
2. Lay in the thread about ¼ of the shank behind the eye and form a thread base to the bend.
3. Select some stiff grizzly and brown spade hackle fibers. Tie in a few fibers of grizzly, then brown, then grizzly. Keep it sparse. The length is about the same as the body.
4. Tie in a piece of opal or pearl Mylar tinsel at the base of the tail. Wrap the tinsel to the front end of the thread wraps, then return. Tie off and clip the excess.
5. Select a small pinch of gray dubbing or trim a small clump of muskrat fur close to the skin; remove any long guard hairs.
6. Wax the thread, twist on some dubbing, and dub a sparse tapered abdomen, thin at the rear and thicker at the front, stopping where the tinsel ended.
7. Select, clean, and align two grizzly hen hackle tips so they flare away from one another. The tips should be the length of the body plus half of the tail. Using the pinch technique, make a couple of gentle wraps of thread to tie them in with the tips 45 degrees backward over the body. Continue to pinch the hackles while you add a third wrap, then tighten. Check the hackles - if they aren't right, unwrap and try again. It may take a few tries.
8. In front of the wing (and over that spot you left bare while dubbing the body) tie in a prepared grizzly hackle, with a brown one over it. Run the thread forward, forming a base.
9. The second hackle you tied on (the one on top) is the first one you wind forward - the brown. Make 3-4 wraps, then tie off and trim the waste.
10. Next, wind the grizzly hackle forward. Look closely at the hackle stem where it contacts the hook shank and try to position the wraps between the brown hackle. Tie off and trim.
11. Make a small thread head, cut the thread and add a drop of head cement for security.

This fly is a hybrid of the standard Catskill-style Adams dry fly with the addition of the tinsel underbody and, thanks to Mr. Ted Rogowski, a slanted and more realistic wing. See Mr. Rogowski's article "A Better Way to Tie Mayfly Wings" in the Summer 2021 edition of Fly Tyer magazine. Mr. Rogowski was a member of the BSA National Fishing Committee and tied flies for over 80 years!

* Foam Beetle (terrestrial dry fly)

Materials:

Hook	Standard dry fly hook, size 10-16
Thread	3/0 thread, color to match body
Underbody	Peacock herl
Body	2mm or 3mm closed cell foam, black or color of the insect to match
Indicator	Poly yarn, egg yarn or foam (shown)
Legs	Rubber leg material, color to match or contrast body

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush the hook barb and set the hook in the vise.
2. Lay in the thread behind the eye, create a rough thread base, and bring it back to about a quarter of the shank from the eye. This is the "starting point".
3. Cut a strip of closed-cell foam, 1 to 1.5 times the hook gap. Cut one end into a "V" and tie it down to the hook shank at the starting point. Wrap thread to just beyond the end of the hook shank, smoothing the foam. The strip should be hanging beyond the bend.
4. Tie in a few peacock herls. Spiral the herls and the thread together to form a peacock herl "rope".
5. Wrap the thread and herls forward in closely-spaced turns to the starting point. Separate the herl from the thread, tie off and trim the excess herl.
6. Pull the foam gently forward over the herl underbody to create a humped body. Secure to the hook at the starting point, leaving a tag of foam over the hook eye.
7. Trim the foam to form a blunt "head" extending over the hook eye.
8. (optional) If desired for visibility, tie in a small bunch of brightly colored yarn or foam on top of the fly at the starting point. Trim the yarn or foam short on top.
9. Fold a piece of rubber leg material on each side of the foam body at the starting point to form two legs on each side. If you need to, straighten the legs out before you cinch the thread tight and then lay in a number of half hitches to secure.
10. Clip the legs to be even on both sides of the fly. The front legs should be about twice as long as the head, and the back legs should reach to the end of the hook bend. Cement your half hitches for durability - this fly will get chewed!

Notes:

This handbook was created by the

BSA National Fishing Team