



# *Flydresser*

## Guidelines for Contributors and Editorial Policy

### Content of Articles

*Flydresser* is the quarterly journal of The Fly Dressers' Guild and as such, is devoted exclusively to promote and encourage the art of fly-dressing.

Our aim is to provide our members with well-written articles on any aspect of tying flies, across all fly-tying disciplines. We therefore looking for articles that meet one or more of the criteria set out below:

- Describe a newly developed or classic pattern or a group of patterns;
- Provide step by step instructions on how to tie a particular fly or execute a technique;
- Describe new tying techniques and materials, or new applications for older techniques and materials;
- Provide useful technical information on fly tying materials;
- Highlight people who made an important contribution to the world of fly tying and show case one of their contributions – e.g. one of their best known patterns, styles, techniques, etc.;
- Offer interesting and challenging thoughts on fly tying;
- Cover any other valid fly-tying related matters, such as reviews of fly tying books, reports on key shows, etc.

Any type of fly for any type of species will be considered, including:

- traditional dries, wets and nymphs for trout and grayling;
- modern stillwater competition flies;
- hair winged and fully dressed classic flies for sea trout and salmon;
- flies for other non-predatory and predatory freshwater fish;
- saltwater flies; and
- realistics and semi-realistics.

Members are encouraged to share their ideas and knowledge by contributing material to *Flydresser*. Articles should focus on specific, accurate and useful information that will enrich our members' enjoyment and knowledge of the art of fly tying, and help them catch more fish.

A little history about the fly in question and brief indications on how to fish it will provide additional colour.

Assume the reader wants to be told exactly what to do and how to do it, so they can put the magazine down, sit down at their vice and tie the pattern as shown. Don't leave questions unanswered, or offer too many options.

### Format of Articles

We estimate a full page to text to be around 500 words (excluding headings, bylines, photographs, captions and a brief author's biography) and we prefer articles that run for no more than six pages, unless there's a good reason. Hence, articles should be between 300 and 2,000 words long, depending on the subject and how many photos will be included. We're happy to accept longer articles if they can be divided into sensible sections and across two or more issues.

Each article should include, as a minimum, the dressing for one of the patterns discussed and a photograph of the fly (see below for further details on photographs and the support we can provide).

We typically list the materials for a pattern as a separate section within the article, in the order in which they are tied onto the hook. Whilst the Guild does not seek to endorse particular brands and products, if a specific hook is required to tie a pattern, please include its brand name and size (or size range) but also a general description (e.g. “regular dry fly hook”). The same applies to the thread and tying materials. Listing substitutes for hard-to-find materials will also be helpful to readers.

For step by step articles, try to bear in mind the layout that we prefer to follow: typically four landscape photographs per page, with the last page in the sequence including the final step and a larger photograph of the finished fly, plus a brief author’s bio. It also really helps when authors ensure that the text matches the photographs provided and label the photos with the corresponding step number.

We prefer to receive articles in Microsoft Word. If you don’t use Microsoft Word, do send your article in your preferred format and we’ll do our best open it. Just in case, do also send your file in plain text or Rich Text Format and as a PDF, so we can see the text and any suggestions regarding the layout.

## Photos and other artwork

Photographs or professional quality illustrations of the fly/ flies in question are important, so here are a few things you should consider to ensure your photos can be used and do your work justice:

- Photos should be well-lit, sharp and correctly framed.
- Take time to also consider the background against which you’re shooting your subject. A busy background won’t help readers focus see the detail. Dark backgrounds may prevent some of the materials from showing up properly. Use a sheet of card or foam to create an uncluttered background of a colour which will allow the detail of your subject to be easily seen by readers.
- Photos should be submitted as 300 dpi (or minimum of 3MB) JPEGs. Illustrations should be sent as JPEGs or PDFs. You should be able to adjust the resolution at which your photos are taken on your camera or phone (or images are scanned on your printer/scanner). Also make sure images don’t get shrunk when you send them. This tends to happen if you embed them in a Word document, and sometimes when you email them. If your email app gives you the option to send them in the original size, choose that. Alternatively, you can send them using [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com) – they will try to get you to sign up to a subscription, but there is an option to send files for free.
- Images will most commonly be printed as 65mm W x 45mm H pictures (occasionally in smaller/ larger variations of that ratio). However, don’t crop the images supplied – just indicate in your text if there is any particular part of the picture that the editor should zoom into.
- Clearly name each image sequentially – e.g. Step 1, Step 2, etc.
- Photos of fish and fishing scenes can also help tell a story but please don’t send in “grip-and-grin shots” or pictures of dead fish or fish laying on grass or rocks. Instead, send photos of fish at water level or release shots.

If you don’t have good photographic support, do let us know so we can work out how to help you. We are always happy to receive flies (or part tied flies for step by steps) and photograph them on your behalf.

## Submission of materials

Please send your contributions to: [editor@flydressersguild.org](mailto:editor@flydressersguild.org).

If you have photographs to include with your article, do remember that an email which includes one or two 5MB photos may not get through. Send them as separate emails or use [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com), as per above.

Contributions that can't be emailed should be posted to:  
The Editorial Committee, 2 Briar Close, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6QF.

Make sure you include your name, address, telephone number and email address on the file with your article, as it may get separated from your covering email and we don't want to lose your contact details!

Original flies, artwork and any other relevant materials will be returned only on request.

Unless otherwise indicated by the Editorial Committee, copy should be sent in: during the first week of January (for the Spring issue), April (Summer issue), July (Autumn issue) and October (Winter issue).

## Editorial Committee

The Editorial Committee is responsible for compiling and organising the publication of *Flydresser* and will have absolute discretion in the selection of material to be published in each issue. The current Editorial Committee comprises the following Executive Committee members:

- Chairman: Peter Gathercole
- General Secretary: Chris Reeves
- Member without Portfolio: Caroline Emmet

## Editorial response

All articles submitted for publication will be acknowledged by the Editorial Committee within 1-2 weeks, with an indication of whether/when they can be used or not. The FDG cannot guarantee to publish all articles received. However:

- If the Editorial Committee does not expect to be able to use the article within 12 months of its receipt, e.g. because it does not fit in with the editorial themes selected for *Flydresser*, it will suggest to the author that the article be published in the members' only area of the FDG website, providing that the quality of the article or photographs is appropriate.
- If the Editorial Committee believes the article is not of sufficient quality, it will provide a brief explanation as to why it feels unable to use the material.

The Editorial Committee reserve the right to correct, amend or alter the text of an article without destroying the integrity of the article and the author will be sent the corrected/amended/altered text for approval.

Flies will not be re-tied without consulting the author first.

## Other

Copyright of articles, images, drawings and items appearing in *Flydresser* resides in the contributors.

If a contributor wishes to reproduce his/her work elsewhere, it is a matter of courtesy to ask the Editorial Committee for permission and to acknowledge that the article first appeared in *Flydresser*.

The FDG cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of articles in *Flydresser*.

The FDG takes every care in compiling the contents of *Flydresser* but accepts no responsibility for effects arising therefrom.

The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee or of the FDG.