

The Fly Dressers' Guild

# Gold Award Syllabus

**"Tying to Frame"**

For Advanced Fly Tiers





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“Over the past few years, there has been an increasing trend to diversify and produce flies for display purposes, imitate the natural insect to infinite degrees, and to dress flies that are ‘clean’ without a feather out of place. People who strive to achieve these goals (and in some cases succeed) are craftsmen of the highest order.”

*Paul Little, “What is fly tying” - an article published in the Autumn 2005 Flydresser.*

# Acknowledgements

This booklet would have never taken shape had it not been for the hard work and valuable contributions made by a number of members of The Fly Dressers' Guild.

First and foremost, Peter Watson from the Thames Valley Branch of The Fly Dressers' Guild, who put together the original Thames Valley Branch syllabus and generously allowed us to use it as the basis for this booklet.

Barry Ord-Clarke, Richard Ellis, Chris Reeves and Caroline Emmet, who pulled together the photographs and text for this booklet, with expert and constructive guidance from Wendy Gibson and Chris Watson and further helpful contributions from a number of members of the Executive Committee.

A number of other members made considerable contributions to the Guild's efforts to develop a National Vocational Qualification in fly tying: Alan Middleton, Eddie Wilkinson, Paul Eslinger, Ian Fazakerley and Paul Davis. Whilst the Guild has decided not to structure this course as a formal accreditation for the time being, all their work has been carefully saved and will provide a strong starting point when the Guild is ready to develop an external qualification.

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# Gold Award Syllabus

“Tying to Frame”

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# Introduction

## Why Do We Need a Guild Fly Tying Awards Scheme?

The Fly Dressers' Guild exists to promote and encourage the art of fly dressing or fly tying. We take "promoting" to have a two-fold meaning: inspiring more people to take an interest in our craft and helping them to become more knowledgeable and accomplished tiers.

For individuals to improve as tiers, they need to be able to measure their progress. The Guild Award Scheme provides Guild members with the opportunity to develop or reinforce their fly tying skills and test their progress against a consistent, national standard at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Participation is entirely voluntary. No member or branch is under any obligation to take part.

## What are the Aims of the Awards Scheme?

The aim of the Awards Scheme is to encourage members to develop and improve their fly tying skills at their own pace through a structured learning plan with progressive goals. The Scheme is meant to be informative, enjoyable and encourage camaraderie and co-operation amongst those taking part. In addition, it can also assist Branches and instructors in the planning and delivering of courses.

There are three levels of awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level develops a series of techniques, with subsequent levels building on previous ones.

A *Bronze level* tier must be able to use straightforward materials and techniques to tie a small number of simple flies of a sufficient quality and consistency that they could be shared with friends, i.e. "Flies that Catch", as the title of the syllabus indicates.

At *Silver level*, tiers must be able to tie a wider range of flies, using more complicated materials and techniques to produce more intricate patterns and closer representations of specific insects – hence the Silver Syllabus is called "Matching the Hatch". The degree of consistency and the standard of the techniques applied must be a clear step higher than at Bronze level.

A *Gold Level* award signifies a highly accomplished fly tier, capable of demonstrating excellent application of a wide range of materials and techniques on a consistent basis across a variety of types of flies - "Flies to Frame" (or which should score highly in national and international fly tying competitions).

## The Process

### For Members of Guild Branches

When the Awards were set up, branch secretaries were sent an electronic copy of the Bronze, Silver and Gold syllabi - these are often used to design and run some of a branch's fly-tying lessons. The booklets are also available from the Guild Awards Manager ([awards@flydressersguild.org](mailto:awards@flydressersguild.org)) and on the Guild website ([www.flydressersguild.org](http://www.flydressersguild.org)).

Candidates should keep a record of their progress, which should be signed off by an instructor at appropriate stages and be submitted to the assessor with the flies presented for assessment. The form is set out in the Appendix to this booklet.

## Introduction

Candidates will be required to present their assessor with three examples of each of the patterns required for the level they are being assessed. Candidates must submit their flies in such a way that they are protected in transit, while allowing the assessor to inspect each fly closely, without damaging it.

Suitably qualified assessors can perform Bronze and Silver level assessments for members of their own branch, although where possible, instructors should have their own candidates assessed by another assessor within the branch. Alternatively, Bronze and Silver level awards may be submitted to the Guild Awards Manager who will arrange their assessment. Gold and specialist awards (e.g. Grayling) must be submitted to the Guild Awards Manager.

### **For Non-Branch members or Members of Branches Not Taking Part in the Guild Awards Scheme**

Any member of the Guild who is not a member of a Branch (or is a member of a Branch that is not participating in the Guild Awards Scheme) who wishes to take instruction for a particular award level should contact the Guild Awards Manager who will arrange for an appropriate instructor to contact them.

The instructor will mentor them through the flies and process for that level. The candidate should keep a record of their progress, which should be submitted to the assessor with the flies presented for assessment. The form is set out in the Appendix to this booklet. The candidate may also be asked to submit flies (or photographs of them) from time to time, for the instructor to check that the correct standards are being attained.

Alternatively, they can just request an electronic copy of the relevant syllabus from the Guild Awards Manager or download them from the Members' Area of the website.

Once the candidate feels ready for assessment, they should contact the Guild Awards Manager who will put them in touch with an appropriately qualified assessor.

Candidates will be required to present their assessor with three examples of each of the patterns required for the level they are being assessed. Candidates must submit their flies in such a way that they are protected in transit, while allowing the assessor to inspect each fly closely, without damaging it.

### **Record keeping**

It is only by keeping proper records and retaining photographs of the flies deemed to have met the relevant award standards that The Fly Dressers' Guild can ensure consistency across assessments and maintain confidence in the system.

Assessors must therefore complete an assessment sheet for each assessment performed.

Previously, the candidates, assessors and Guild Awards Manager were each required to keep one example of submitted flies to allow for possible subsequent verification of the awards. With the volume of flies being assessed, it is no longer practicable to continue to do this. Instead, we ask that, in the case of a candidate that has successfully completed an award level, the assessor send a copy of their assessment sheet to the Guild Awards Manager, so that the award can be recorded and sent out. Both the assessor and the Guild Awards Manager should retain a copy of the assessment for six months.

Ideally, the assessor should also photograph the flies assessed for future reference and send a copy of the photographs to the Guild Awards Manager, in case of a challenge or appeal. Both the assessor and the Guild Awards Manager should retain the photographs for six months.



## Introduction

If the candidate has failed one or more of the set patterns, the assessor must complete the assessment sheet (clearly highlighting the areas for improvement) and return it to the candidate. The candidate must subsequently submit the original assessment sheet with any re-submitted flies, to aid the subsequent assessment.

In case of any appeal against an assessment, the candidate must make the original flies and assessment sheet available for a second assessment to take place.

Flies submitted to the Guild Awards Manager will only be returned if the candidate requests this and provides a suitable self-addressed and adequately stamped envelope.

Any flies retained by the Guild Awards Manager will become the property of the Guild after six months.

The Guild Awards Manager will maintain a list of all successful candidates at each level. This information will no longer be published on the Guild website due to data protection regulations.

### **Instructors and assessors**

Branches currently running the Guild Awards Scheme have a list of recognised instructors and assessors. Any branch wishing to start an awards programme for the first time or appoint new instructors or assessors should first contact the Guild Awards Manager. Prior to doing so, it would be helpful if they could ascertain whether those instructors or assessors are willing to mentor or assess non-Branch members of the Guild.

Other instructors or assessors may be appointed by the Guild Awards Manager.

A list of instructors and assessors is available from the Guild Awards Manager.

Guidance for instructors and assessors is available from the Guild Awards Manager ([awards@flydressersguild.org](mailto:awards@flydressersguild.org)) and on the Guild website ([www.flydressersguild.org](http://www.flydressersguild.org)).



# Gold Syllabus – Overview

This booklet is intended to challenge fly dressers with more advanced techniques. It introduces flies that require multiple steps or combine different techniques and that require a greater awareness of proportion and style. The patterns included in this book build on the intermediate techniques learned in the Silver awards

The table below builds sets out the modules covered in the Gold Syllabus.

MODULE	PURPOSE
<b>Tools</b>	Recognise, name, describe and demonstrate the use of the new fly tying tools used in for the Gold Award flies.
<b>Hooks</b>	Recognise, name and describe the different styles of hooks used for the Gold Award flies and suitable alternatives.
<b>Materials</b>	Recognise and describe the materials used in the Gold Award flies; explain their qualities; demonstrate an understanding of how to prepare the materials for assembly of the fly.
<b>Proportions of a Fly</b>	Recognise, describe and demonstrate the proportions of flies for this level.
<b>Techniques</b>	Describe and demonstrate the techniques used in this booklet. Explain why they are suited to the type of fly being tied. Explain alternative ways of producing the same results.
<b>Evaluation Flies</b>	Seven flies chosen to demonstrate the techniques included in the Gold Syllabus.
<b>Other Flies</b>	Additional flies that also use the techniques included in the Gold Syllabus. These flies may be interchanged with the flies above provided that all of the techniques are demonstrated.

TABLE 1 - GOLD SYLLABUS MODULES

**Notes:**

# Tools

This section provides a brief introduction to the new tools you will need or can choose to use for some of the techniques used in the Gold Syllabus flies. Tools introduced at the Bronze and Silver level are not repeated here.

## Deer Hair Packer

There are many variations of this tool. The simplest commercially available form is the Brassie, shown here, a piece of folded brass with a notch in the ends which, when placed on either side of the hook shank enables the tier to compress the deer hair. Pat Cohen, the American deer hair expert and tier of extreme deer hair patterns, has produced a more robust version of this tool.

Surrey fly tier John Smith has a home-made version which is simply a large button stuck to an empty biro tube with one of the button holes over the centre hole of the biro tube.

All of these tools serve the same purpose: they allow the tier to exert additional pressure on deer hair to compress bunches tied around the hook and form tighter heads and bodies.

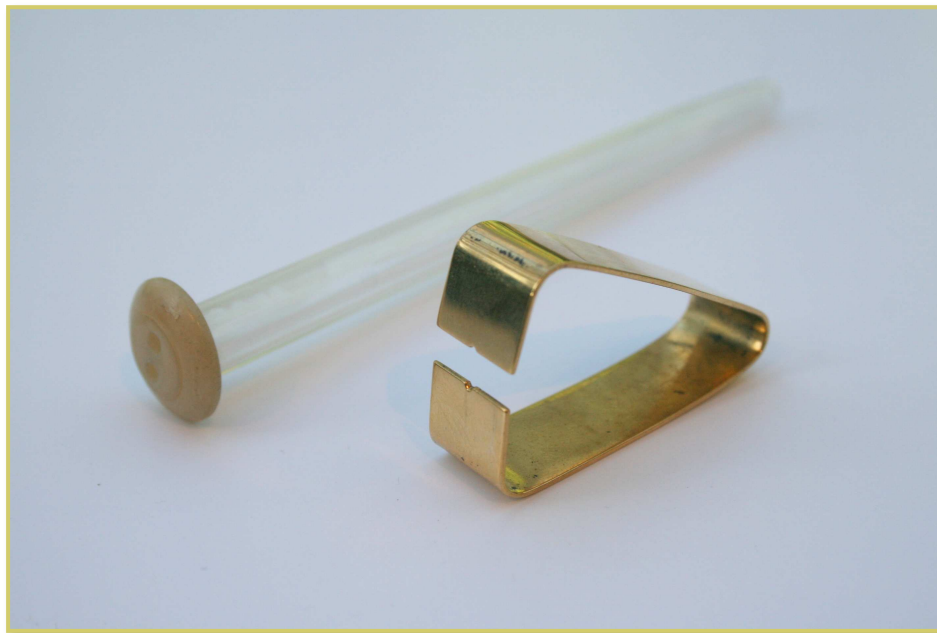


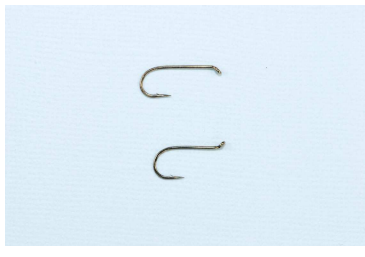


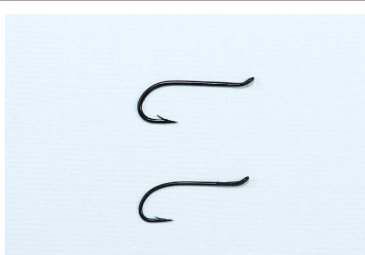
FIGURE 1 – DEER HAIR PACKERS – JOHN SMITH’S VERSION AND THE BRASSIE

Tools

**Notes:**

# Hooks

The following types of hook have been used for the Gold Syllabus evaluation flies.

TYPE OF HOOK	
<p><b>Dry Fly Hook</b> Standard dry fly hook, up-eye or down-eye.</p>	
<p><b>Wet Fly Hooks</b> Standard wet fly hook.</p>	
<p><b>Czech Nymph Hooks</b> Any grub hook with a reasonably long shank will suffice. The point may be offset.</p>	 <p><i>Czech Nymph hooks by Partridge (#16), Dohiku and Knapek (both #12)</i></p>
<p><b>Salmon Hooks</b> Standard strong wire or low water hooks, loop-eyed, with a black japanned finish. In older salmon patterns, the hook may be referred to as an “iron”.</p>	

Hooks



<p><b>Double Hooks</b> Have two points usually set at an angle of 45 degrees apart.</p>	
<p><b>Saltwater hooks</b> Generally made of thicker gauge wire. The finish is also more resistant to corrosion.</p>	

TABLE 2 – HOOKS USED IN GOLD AWARD EVALUATION FLIES



# Materials

The step-by-step patterns in this book involve the use of the following materials or suitable substitutes:

- Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
- Floss – yellow and red
- Floss- Red
- Flat silver tinsel
- Oval silver tinsel
- Flat Gold tinsel – fine and medium
- Silver wire – fine
- Gold wire – medium
- Micro chenille – 2 contrasting colours
- Medium chenille, red, white and grey
- Pink and wine coloured Krystal Flash
- Silver Flashabou
- Bead
- Adhesive backed tape eyes, teddy bear eyes or moulded eyes
- Cock hackle – yellow, blue and red game
- Cock saddle hackle (long) – white and grizzle
- Peacock herl
- Black ostrich herl
- Hen pheasant centre tail or primary feather
- Golden pheasant topping (crest feathers)
- Blue jay wing
- Goose shoulder – red and yellow
- Oak turkey tail feather
- Rabbit fur – black
- Seal's fur – olive yellow
- Squirrel tail – dyed red and natural
- Calf tail – white
- Buck tail – white, grey, pink and red
- Deer hair
- Moose body hair

## Notes:

- Many of the materials mentioned above can be substituted, provided they have similar characteristics. For example, oak turkey tail feathers can be replaced by any mottled brown feathers of a suitable fibre length. Krystal Flash can be substituted for other similar proprietary brands.
- However, it will not be acceptable for substitute materials to be used if they do not perform identically in the pattern. For example cock fibres used for dry fly tails cannot be replaced with softer cock pheasant tail fibres.

Materials

**Notes:**

# Proportions of a Fly

Over the years, many fly tiers have set out their own preferred proportion charts, so that the precise dimensions of a particular type of fly have become somewhat subjective and a matter of taste. The proportions used in this book are largely based on the Veniard series of books on fly tying and should be followed in the construction of all assessment flies, for consistency purposes.

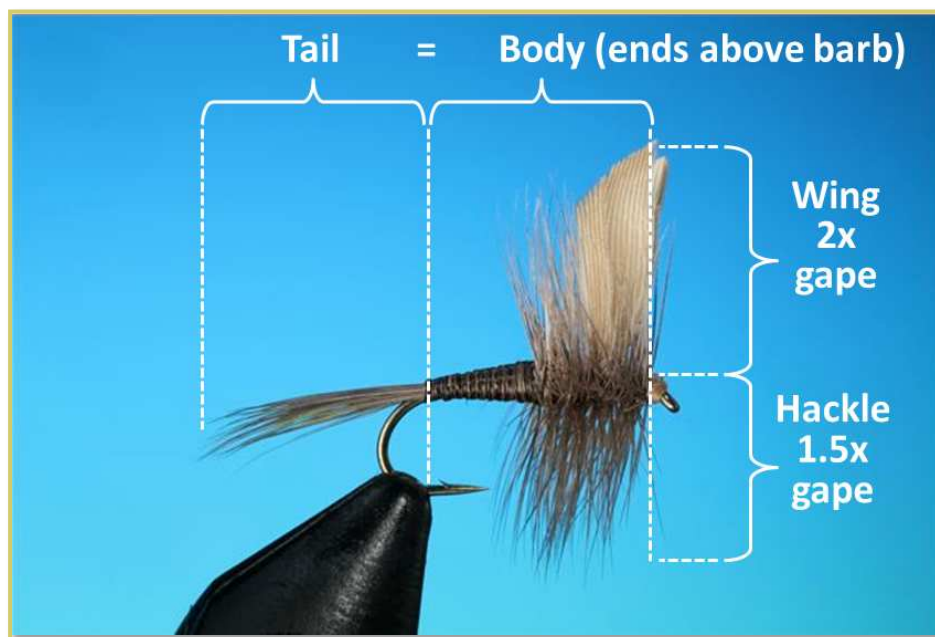


FIGURE 2 - UPWINGED DRY FLIES

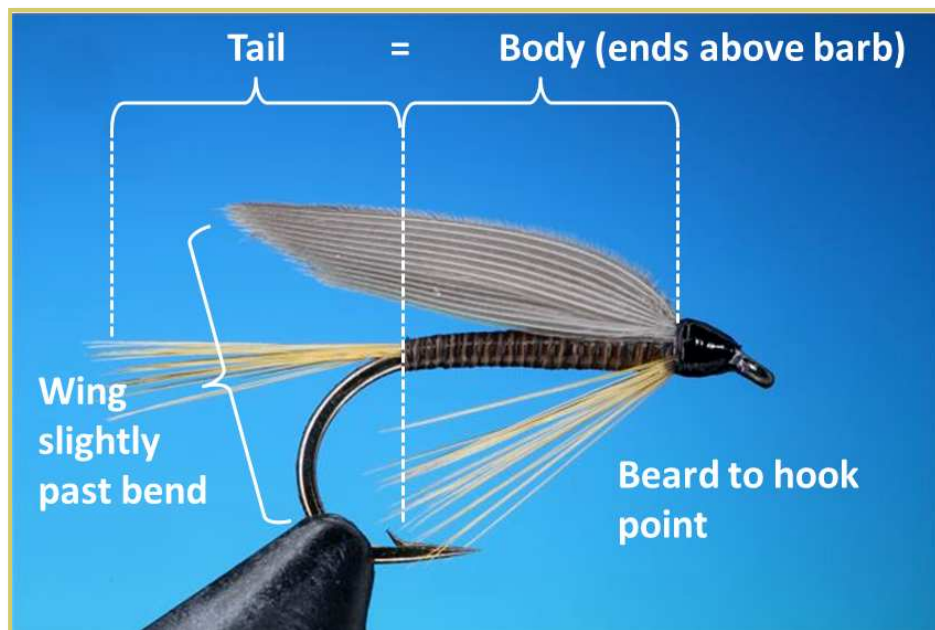


FIGURE 3 - WINGED WET FLIES

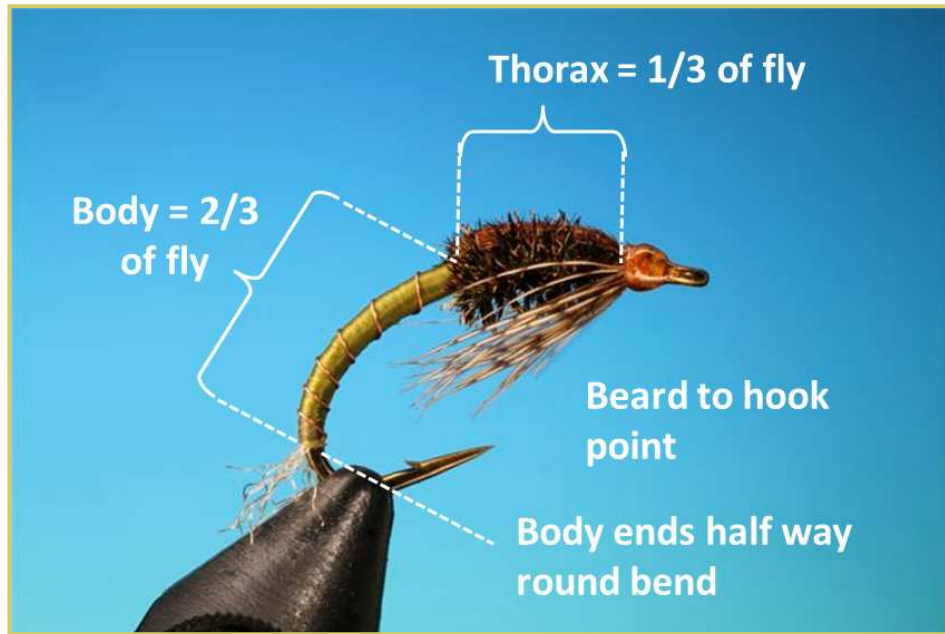


FIGURE 4 – EMERGERS



FIGURE 5 - HAIRWING SALMON FLIES

# Techniques

The various techniques covered in the Bronze or Silver Syllabus are not repeated in this book. The new techniques introduced for the Gold Syllabus are set out below.

## Woven Bodies: Parallel Weave

The weave chosen for this part of the Awards syllabus is a parallel weave.

Weaving is a straightforward technique but one that requires practice. The basic premise is that separate threads are woven together to form an interlocking body, with the weave providing segmentation and colour contrast.

Weaving can be carried out with any material that can be manipulated under tension to form a tight interlocked body. Usually floss or fine chenilles are used for weaving trout flies.

For the parallel weave, tie in the two strands of suitable material behind the eye of the hook, one on either side of the hook shank, and secure them down the length of the hook shank all the way to the bend.

Return the thread to the eye, secure it with a whip-finish and cut it off.

Turn the vice so that the eye of the hook is facing towards you. Start with each strand of chenille pulled out to the side and towards you at 45 degrees to the hook shank. The two strands of chenille should be at 90 degrees to each other.

Bring the top colour over the hook. Both strands of chenille should now be on the same side of the hook.

Cross the bottom colour over the top on the side of the hook then take the top colour back over the hook and the bottom colour under the hook. Both should now be on the opposite side.

Repeat the process until the tie off point is reached. Maintain a constant tension to keep the coloured segments equal.

At the tie off point, hold both strands in one hand, start the thread, wrap a few turns then tie off the body material. This is a tricky operation at first - accomplished tiers will work out which way they find easiest.

There are photographs illustrating the technique in the step by step for the Woven Nymph.

## Married Wings

This technique is used to produce the different coloured bands in the wings of traditional salmon and wet flies. It relies on the interlocking properties of the individual fibres of a bird's flight feathers. These fibres will marry together and allow the tier to construct wings using feathers from different birds

The marrying of a wing is simple technique but it does require a little practice and dexterity. It is very easy to waste a lot of expensive materials so practice with simple wings made of duck, goose and swan before moving onto exotic feathers. Some feathers are easier to marry than others.

## Techniques

A full married wing is formed of a left and a right side wing which are made from fibres taken from left and right wing feathers or the left and right sides of a tail feather respectively. It is not possible to marry the fibres a left side feather with those of a right side feather.

Each feather fibre has a series of teeth like those on a zip fastener - to marry two fibres together these teeth must be interlocked. To marry two sections of feather fibres together it is easiest to use the following technique. Hold the bottom slip in your fingers, bring the top slip toward the bottom slip from the rear, adjust the fibres so that the tips are correctly aligned and then gently coax the two slips together, stroking them so that they interlock fully. If they are misaligned, simply separate the sections and repeat.

A video clip demonstrating this technique is available in the Hints and Tips section in the Members' Area of The Fly Dressers' Guild website ([www.flydressersguild.org](http://www.flydressersguild.org)).

## Folded Wing

A folded wing is an alternative to a traditional feather slip wing. It is particularly useful for making wings from feathers that do not marry together well such as teal, hen pheasant tail and bronze mallard.

Take the chosen feather and stroke the fibres out so they are perpendicular to the stem. You will need a width of three times your intended wing. Holding the fibres together, cut them from the stem. Place them on a hard surface and fold one third of the feather towards the middle, then do the same on the opposite side. Hold the fibres securely and offer to the hook. Check that any natural curve of the bunch is positioned to best effect for the fly pattern in question. Tie in place with a pinch and loop and then secure in front of the pinch and loop.

## Deer Hair Heads and Collars

For the Muddler Minnow, deer hair forms both the collar and the head.

For the collar, take a bunch of deer hair by the tips and remove all the underfur and loose fibres. Stack the hair, then place it on the hook shank with the tips facing towards the bend and adjust the position of the hair so that the tips will form a collar of the desired length. Take a loose turn of thread around the bunch and allow the deer hair to slide around the hook to form the collar. Tie down with two turns of thread but do not compress fully or the hair will flare too much. Secure with tighter turns towards the eye. Trim off excess.

For the head, take a second (slightly thicker) bunch of deer hair and remove all of the underfur and loose fibres. Trim the tips to avoid confusion with those in the collar when trimming the head. Offer the bunch to the shank at an angle of 45 degrees, wrap two loose turns of thread around the bunch and the hook shank. Tighten the thread and allow the deer hair to spin around the shank and flare. If additional deer hair is needed it may be necessary to compress the bunch already tied in using one of the deer packing tools described earlier, then add more deer hair as required.

## Divided or Split Hair Wing

The Wulff series of flies incorporate a hair wing and a wound hackle. The hair wing is tied facing forwards and then split into two equal bunches. It forms the foundation for the hackle.

## Techniques

Over the years various hairs have been used, including squirrel, calf, moose body hair and buck tail. The original dressing had a wing of brown buck tail, however for the Awards either calf tail or body or buck tail is acceptable.

The tail is tied in first and the excess trimmed. The wing material, which is approximately twice the thickness of the tail, is tied in facing forwards and positioned to form the wing. The waste is removed so that the cut ends of the tail and wing materials meet in the middle of the hook shank to give a smooth underbody.

The wings are then lifted into position and secured with a few wraps of thread beneath the front of the wing. Ensure you leave enough room in front of the wing for two turns of hackle and a head.

Once lifted into position, split the wing into two equal parts and using figure of eight wraps, secure the separation. End by taking four tight turns of thread around the base of each wing. A tiny drop of varnish may be added to each wing root for security if desired but it should not be necessary.

The wings should be at 90 degrees to each other. They should stand up from the hook shank at around 45 degrees.

Techniques

**Notes:**



# Evaluation Flies

## Beltra Badger (Salmon Fly)

### Dressing

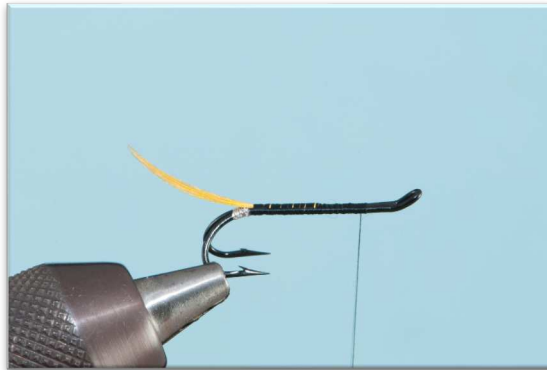
<b>Hook</b>	Salmon double, #8
<b>Thread</b>	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or similar round thread
<b>Tag</b>	Oval tinsel silver
<b>Tail</b>	Golden pheasant topping
<b>Butt</b>	Black ostrich herl
<b>Rib</b>	Fine silver wire
<b>Body hackle</b>	Yellow cock
<b>Body</b>	Flat silver tinsel
<b>Beard hackle</b>	Blue cock
<b>Wing</b>	First part grey squirrel dyed red, second part natural grey squirrel tail

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Tie on the tinsel and form a tag. Secure the tinsel and trim off the waste.

Tie in the topping feather and form the tail. The tail should follow the natural curve of the topping feather.



#### Step 2

Tie in the ostrich herl and wrap three turns to form a butt.

Tie in the tinsel and wire rib. Wrap the silver tinsel forwards and form a smooth body. Ensure the start of the tinsel starts immediately after the butt and no silk is visible. Leave sufficient space at the head for wing and shoulder hackles.



*Step 3*

Tie in a yellow cock hackle at the head and then palmer it back to the butt. Bring the wire rib forwards in the opposite direction trapping the hackle and forming a rib.

Then tie in the blue cock hackle to form a beard.



*Step 4*

Tie in the dyed red grey squirrel, followed by the natural grey squirrel and form a neat head with the tying thread. Whip-finish and varnish the head to give a smooth glossy finish.



### Tying Tips

- When wrapping the tag ensure that none of the tying silk is visible behind the tag.
- When tying in the golden pheasant topping, wrap all the way down the hook shank and clip off the waste near the eye. This ensures an even underbody
- When tying in the ribbing wire, tie it in on the underside of the hook shank, so that when wrapped it doesn't suddenly appear on one side of the hook.
- Squirrel tail is notoriously slippery. Take care when tying in the wing sections that all underfur is removed and that the silk is twisted to a round rather than a flat profile so that it bites into the hair. It is likely that the assessor will test the security of the wing with a gentle pull.

### Notes

*This is an Irish salmon fly, from the Beltra river system. A rather fancy fly, it is nevertheless effective during the Summer and is often tied "low water" style.*

## Woven Nymph (Nymph)

### Dressing

<b>Hook</b>	Nymph hook (the hook used below is a Partridge Czech Nymph hook, #16)
<b>Thread</b>	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
<b>Body</b>	Micro chenille, in two contrasting colours – typically a dark colour is used for the top and a lighter colour for the lower part of the body
<b>Thorax</b>	Black rabbit dubbing

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Place a 3mm bead on the hook.

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Secure the bead. Return the thread to the bend.

Tie in the two strands of chenille behind the bead, one strand on each side of the hook shank and secure them down the length of the hook shank all the way to the bend.

Return the thread to the eye, secure it with a whip-finish and cut it off.



#### Step 2

For these photographs the hook is shown in the normal position but you should turn the vice so that the eye of the hook is facing towards you.

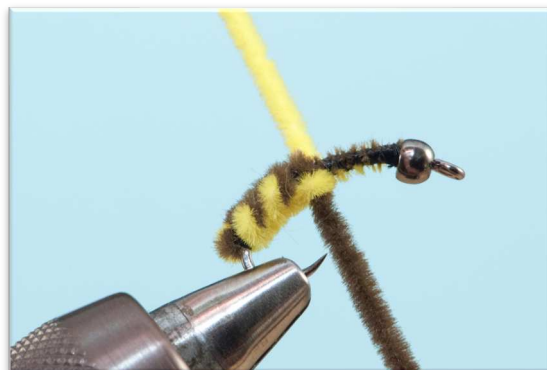
Start with each strand of chenille pulled out to the side and towards you at 45 degrees to the hook shank. The two strands of chenille should be at 90 degrees to each other.



#### Step 3

Bring the top colour over the hook and towards you. Both strands of chenille should now be on the same side of the hook.

Cross the bottom colour over the top colour on the side of the hook, then take the top colour back over the hook and the bottom colour under the hook. Both should now be on the opposite side.



## Evaluation Flies

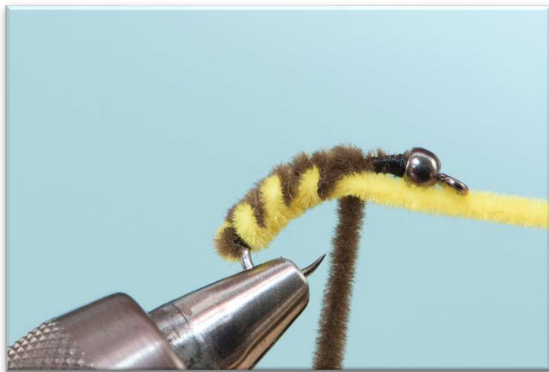
### *Step 5*

Repeat the process, maintaining a constant tension to keep the coloured segments equal.



### *Step 6*

Continue until you reach the bead.



### *Step 7*

Then reattach the thread, tie off the two lengths of chenille.



### *Step 8*

Dub the thorax and whip finish.



### Tying Tips

- Ensure the bead is properly secured.
- It is important to maintain consistent tension in the chenille to form an even body.

### Notes

*Woven flies have been around for a long time but it is comparatively recently that the passion for Czech nymph fishing has resurrected this technique.*

*Weaving forms a tight body, gives good segmentation and colour contrast and maintains a slim profile if suitable materials are used.*

*The fly chosen in a great fly for early season trout or grayling it can be tied in a variety of sizes and colours.*

## Invicta (Wet)

### Dressing

<b>Hook</b>	Wet fly #12
<b>Thread</b>	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
<b>Tail</b>	Golden pheasant topping
<b>Rib</b>	Fine silver wire
<b>Body hackle</b>	Red game cock hackle
<b>Body</b>	Olive yellow seal's fur
<b>Beard hackle</b>	Blue jay fibres
<b>Wing</b>	Hen pheasant centre tail or primary feather

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Tie in the tail, then the rib.



#### Step 2

Dub on a body of olive yellow seal's fur.



#### Step 3

Tie in the body hackle at the front of the body and palmer it towards the tail. Tie it off with the rib and bring the rib forwards to the front of the body.



#### Step 4

Tie in the beard hackle.



## Evaluation Flies

### *Step 5*

Fold the feather fibres to form a wing. Tie in the wing. Form a neat head with the tying thread, whip-finish and varnish.



### **Tying Tips**

- Practice folding your wings.
- It may be helpful to use a dubbing needle or cocktail stick to initiate the fold.

### **Notes**

*The Invicta is an out-and-out sedge pattern. It represents the ascending pupae and is also effective when fished as an emerger and even as a dry. It is one of the few traditional patterns that have stood the test of time and are still in common use.*

*Tied with a silver tinsel body, it is a good fry pattern*

## Colonel Fuller (Wet)

### Dressing

<b>Hook</b>	Wet fly #10
<b>Thread</b>	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
<b>Tag</b>	Fine gold tinsel
<b>Tail</b>	Red goose shoulder feather fibres
<b>Rib</b>	Fine gold tinsel
<b>Body</b>	Yellow floss
<b>Beard hackle</b>	Yellow cock hackle
<b>Wing</b>	Married yellow and red goose shoulder feather fibres

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Tie in and wrap a tag of tinsel. Tie in the tail.



#### Step 2

Tie in the rib and the floss. Form the body of floss aiming for a 'carrot' shape, wider at the thorax. Then rib the body.



#### Step 3

Tie in the beard hackle. Ensure that you don't leave a "hump" at the head, otherwise the wing will sit too high.





## Evaluation Flies

### *Step 4*

Form a wing by marrying alternate strips of yellow, red and yellow feather fibres. Tie in the wing.

Form a neat head with the tying thread, whip-finish and varnish.



### **Tying Tips**

- It is easier to prepare several wing slips at the same time - this will help with consistency of proportions and will also ensure the same parts of the same matching feathers are used.

### **Notes**

*A non imitative fly named after Colonel Charles E. Fuller of Boston, who was born in 1831. He came from an old Revolutionary family and a long line of soldiers and ministers.*

*Originally tied as a streamer it also found use as a bass fly and fancy trout wet fly. This pattern is also tied with a tail of black feather fibres.*

## Muddler Minnow (Streamer)

### Dressing

<b>Hook</b>	Wet fly #12 2x
<b>Thread</b>	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
<b>Tail</b>	Oak turkey feather slips
<b>Rib</b>	Medium gold wire
<b>Body</b>	Medium gold tinsel
<b>Wing</b>	Oak turkey feather slips
<b>Collar and head</b>	Deer hair

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and secure the thread. Tie in the tail, then the rib and the tinsel.

Form a smooth tinsel body over 2/3rds of the shank. Wind the rib to secure the body.



#### Step 2

Tie in the wing.



#### Step 3

Stack a pinch of deer hair and secure it in front of the wing, with the tips facing backwards. The tips should reach the gape of the hook. Spin the deer hair to form an even collar around the hook.

Select another pinch of deer hair, then cut off the tips. Tie in the deer hair and spin it so that it flares around the hook.



## Evaluation Flies

If additional deer hair is needed, it may be necessary to compress the bunch already tied before adding more deer hair. Repeat the process until you reach the eye.

### Step 4

Whip-finish, trim the deer hair to form a neat head and varnish the whip-finish knot.



## Tying Tips

- Take care when trimming the head. Use the sharpest scissors you have or alternatively a razor blade. USE WITH CARE!
- Be confident with your cuts and make cuts at the same angle each time.
- Ensure you do not inadvertently snip away the collar.

## Notes

*American fly tier and outfitter Don Gapen developed his signature fly for the large rivers and lakes of Ontario in the 1930's. It soon became evident that the fly was a very good all round fish taker and especially good for brook trout. Between 1950 and 1970, its popularity grew and grew. Used less frequently these days, it remains very effective when fished in the wave on a loch or reservoir. It is also a useful stillwater pattern for fishing slowly along the bottom when the fish are lethargic.*

*The original Muddler was much more ragged and untidy pattern. Modern fashions have dictated that the fly now has a neatly formed head. The original dressing also had an underwing of squirrel tail.*

## Royal Wulff (Dry)

### Dressing

<b>Hook</b>	Size 10 Dry fly 2x longshank
<b>Thread</b>	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
<b>Tail</b>	Moose body hair
<b>Body</b>	Peacock herl and red floss
<b>Hackle</b>	Red game cock hackle
<b>Wing</b>	White calf tail or body, or buck tail

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Tie in a pinch of moose body hair for the tail. Trim the excess waste halfway down the hook shank.



#### Step 2

Tie in the wing facing forward. Trim the excess waste where it meets the butts of the moose hair, so as to form a smooth body.



#### Step 3

Tie in two strands of peacock herl and the red floss. Wrap the peacock herl to form a collar. Next form a smooth red floss body, then another collar of two peacock herls. Make sure the second peacock herl collar stops short of the wing to allow for the wound hackle.



## Evaluation Flies

### *Step 4*

Bring the wing upright and secure it in position. Tie in the hackle behind the wing and wind it forwards, hackling both behind and in front of the wing. Tie off the hackle, whip-finish and varnish.



### **Tying Tips**

- Use calf tail for wispy wings and calf body hair for solid wings. Body hair is easier to stack.
- The hackle may also be wound in a figure of eight through the wing, This gives a more bushy appearance to the fly.

### **Notes**

*Lee Wulff's series of flies tied in this fashion have become the mainstay of many a chalk stream angler. A classic 'attractor' pattern, this fly can be fantastic in the mayfly season but also works well when there are falls of large terrestrial insects. The bushy hackle and hair wings make this fly float well and highly visible and therefore a great fly for prospecting in the riffles and fast pockets of freestone streams.*

## Sar Mul Mac (Saltwater Predator)

### Dressing

<b>Hook</b>	Saltwater hook 3/0
<b>Thread</b>	White 3/0 Uni-Thread
<b>Tail</b>	White buck tail and white cock saddle hackle
<b>Body</b>	Grey, pink and red buck tail, pink and wine coloured Krystal Flash, silver Flashabou and grizzle cock hackle
<b>Head</b>	Red, white and grey chenille
<b>Eyes</b>	Adhesive backed tape eyes, teddy bear eyes or moulded eyes

### Tying Instructions

#### Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Tie in a bunch of buck tail, about 3" long to form the core of the tail. Trim the waste and secure to form a neat underbody.



#### Step 2

Tie in three white saddle hackles on each side to form the tail, curved sides inwards and add a second bunch of white buck tail beneath the hook shank to form the belly and support the tail.



#### Step 3

Tie in grey buck tail to form the body. Add shoulders of pink buck tail. Next add a few strands of pink Krystal Flash over which tie in six to eight strands of wine coloured Krystal Flash. For the sides, tie in 15 to 20 strands of silver Flashabou on each side. Add a few fibres of red buck tail before tying in a well-marked grizzle hackle along each side. Finally tie in a loop of grey chenille, which will form the top of the head.



*Step 4*

Tie in and wrap a collar of bright red chenille. Then tie in and wrap a tapered head of white chenille.

Pull the loop of grey chenille over the top of the head and tie down. Remove all waste ends, whip-finish and varnish the whip-finish knot.



*Step 5*

Add a pair of appropriately sized eyes - those in this step by step are teddy bear eyes. Using a strong adhesive, stick the eyes into position just in front of the red collar.



**Tying Tips**

- There is a lot of material to get in here so make each wrap of thread really count. It is easy to get carried away and end up with no space at the head.
- It is also important that all the layers are firmly secured. These large flies are cast on 8 to 10 weight rods and they need to be durable.

**Notes**

*As the name suggests, this fly is used whenever fish are feeding on sardines, mullet or mackerel.*

*It is a great fly for striped bass on the east coast of the United States as well as in the San Francisco delta. It is perhaps a little over dressed for general fishing in UK waters but can be very good when fished off rocky shores on a sinking line.*





# Training Record – Gold Syllabus



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Membership No.:</b>
<b>Branch:</b>	<b>Instructor:</b>

Date	Subject covered	Initials

**Notes:**

# Evaluation Form – Gold Syllabus



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Membership No.:</b>
<b>Branch:</b>	<b>Instructor:</b>

<b>Fly</b>	<b>Evaluation Comments</b>	<b>Pass?</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<i>Beltra Badger</i>			
<i>Woven Nymph</i>			
<i>Invicta</i>			
<i>Colonel Fuller</i>			

Evaluation Form – Gold Syllabus

<i>Muddler Minnow</i>			
<i>Royal Wulff</i>			
<i>Sar Mul Mac</i>			

**Assessed and evaluated as complying with the standard required for a Gold level award.**

**FDG registered Assessor:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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