

The Fly Dressers' Guild

Silver Award Syllabus

"Matching the Hatch"

For Intermediate Fly Tiers





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“My personal advice to anyone who ties flies, regardless of the stage of proficiency he or she may have reached, is: If you ever come up against any difficulty, concentrate on that difficulty until it is overcome. In other words, the particularly difficult problem should be practised until it no longer presents any difficulty.”

John Veniard, from “John Veniard’s Further Guide to Fly Dressing”

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.

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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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For more information on The Fly Dressers' Guild and other fly patterns, please visit our website: www.flydressersguild.org.

Silver Award Syllabus

“Matching the Hatch”

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Silver Syllabus – Overview	5
Tools	7
Hooks.....	9
Materials	11
Proportions of a Fly	13
Techniques	15
Evaluation Flies.....	21
Other Flies	33
Training Record – Silver Syllabus	37
Evaluation Form – Silver Syllabus.....	39

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) and on the Guild website (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.

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) and on the Guild website (www.flydressersguild.org).

Silver Syllabus – Overview

This booklet is intended to bring competent fly dressers up to a level where they can consistently produce more technically challenging flies. The techniques included in this book build on the simple techniques learned in the Bronze awards

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

MODULE	PURPOSE
Tools	Recognise, name, describe and demonstrate the use of the new fly tying tools used in for the Silver Award flies.
Hooks	Recognise, name and describe the different styles of hooks used for the Silver Award flies and suitable alternatives.
Materials	Recognise and describe the materials used in the Silver Award flies; explain their qualities; demonstrate an understanding of how to prepare the materials for assembly of the fly.
Proportions of a Fly	Recognise, describe and demonstrate the proportions of flies for this level.
Techniques	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.
Evaluation Flies	Six flies chosen to demonstrate the techniques included in the Silver Syllabus.
Other Flies	Additional flies that also use the techniques included in the Silver Syllabus. These flies may be interchanged with the flies above provided that all of the techniques are demonstrated.

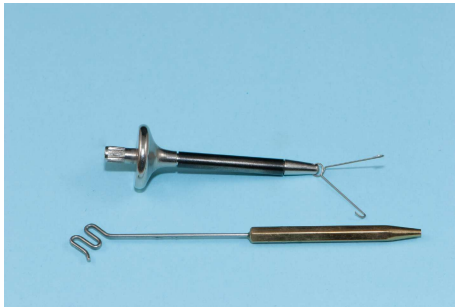
TABLE 1 - SILVER SYLLABUS MODULES

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 Silver Syllabus flies. Tools introduced at the Bronze level are not repeated here.

Dubbing Spinner



A weighted tool usually with some form of double hook that holds a loop of thread open. The weight acts as a flywheel when the tool is spun, enabling the tier to make a tight rope of dubbing.

Hair Stacker



Hollow tube in two parts, often made of metal but wooden ones work perfectly well provided they have sufficient weight. The base part pulls away from the upper tube revealing the aligned hair tips, which can then be removed for tying in. Stackers come in different sizes and it is important to select a tube that is just wide enough and deep enough for the bunch of hair to be stacked. Too tight and the hair will not move inside the tube; too loose

and some hairs may tip at an angle, ruining the precise overall alignment.

Fur comb




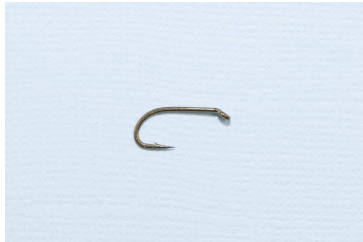

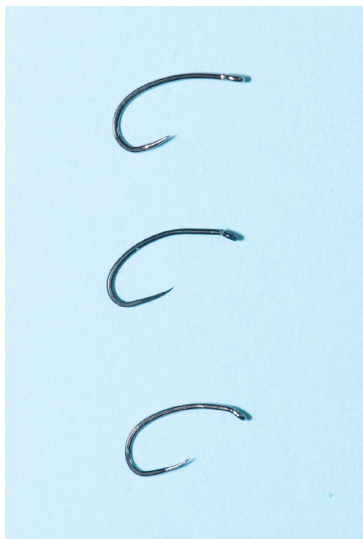
A fine-toothed comb to remove underfur and other debris from deer hair, bucktail and other similar long-fibred hair prior to stacking and/or tying in. A nit comb is perfectly adequate.

Tools

Notes:

Hooks

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

TYPE OF HOOK	
<p>Dry Fly Hook Standard dry fly hook, up-eye or down-eye.</p>	
<p>Wet Fly Hooks Standard wet fly hook.</p>	
<p>Spider Hooks Wide gape wet fly hook. A straight-eyed hook is preferred but any standard wet fly hook with a large enough gape will suffice. The hook shown is the Partridge Classic Spider.</p>	
<p>Czech Nymph Hooks Any grub hook with a reasonably long shank will suffice. The point may be offset.</p> <p>The Czech nymph hooks shown are by Partridge (#16), Dohiku and Knappek (both #12).</p>	

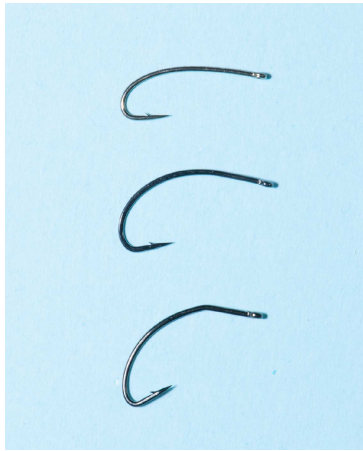


<p>Klinkhamer Hooks</p> <p>A long-shanked curved hook designed so that the thorax of the fly floats in the surface film and the abdomen sinks below it. Note: Partridge Klinkhamer hooks (<i>middle and bottom</i>, both #16) will appear oversized compared to other brands because, for these hooks, the size refers to the size of the gape of the dressed fly. With other brands - including the Scorpion Living Larva hook (<i>top</i>, #12) and the Daiichi Klinkhamer hook – the size will be more conventional.</p> <p>The recent fashion in tying Klinkhamer flies is that the shank should be bent down slightly at the point where the thorax will start, to get the correct attitude for the finished fly. The Partridge Klinkhamer Extreme (<i>bottom</i>) has a pre-made bend at the thorax.</p>	
<p>Standard Salmon Hook</p> <p>Standard hook, loop-eyed, with a black japanned finish</p>	
<p>Low Water Salmon Hook</p> <p>Lighter gauge wire, loop-eyed, with a black japanned finish.</p> <p>In older salmon patterns, the hook may be referred to as an “iron”.</p>	

TABLE 2 – HOOKS USED IN SILVER 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
- Red 8/0 Uni-Thread
- Dark green 8/0 Uni-Thread
- White Cobweb or 14/0
- Orange Pearsall's Gossamer silk
- Purple Pearsall's Gossamer silk
- Black floss
- Antron yarn
- Fine oval gold tinsel
- Fine gold wire
- Fine gold tinsel
- Lead wire
- Jackdaw throat
- Golden pheasant topping (crest feathers)
- Badger cock hackle
- Red-game cock hackle
- Dark green or dark olive cock hackle
- Dark green or dark olive henny cock hackle or hen hackle
- Blue henny cock or hen hackle
- Mallard primary quill
- Peacock herl
- Stripped peacock quill
- Fine dry fly dubbing
- Bright green seal's fur
- Dark green or dark brown seal's fur
- Natural mole fur
- Natural grey squirrel tail
- Clear polythene strip or nymph skin
- 6lb clear nylon fishing line

Other materials may be required to tie the flies in the "Other flies" section.

Notes:

- Coot wing covert is probably the most easily sourced substitute for jackdaw throat.
- Hen hackle is normally used as a collar or body hackle on salmon flies as its softness gives good movement in the water and it can be tied in sloping backwards with ease. However, if hen hackle of a suitable size is not available, it is perfectly acceptable to use a feather from a cock saddle that displays the same characteristics as a hen feather, i.e. soft fibres with significant webbing. These are often sold as "henny cock".
- Fine dry fly dubbing can be made of any material that can be dubbed tightly to the thread and will not absorb water, such as Fly-Rite Extra Fine Poly Dubbing, Orvis Dry Fly Spectrablend and Hareline Superfine Dry Fly Dubbing. These are all made of very fine artificial 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.

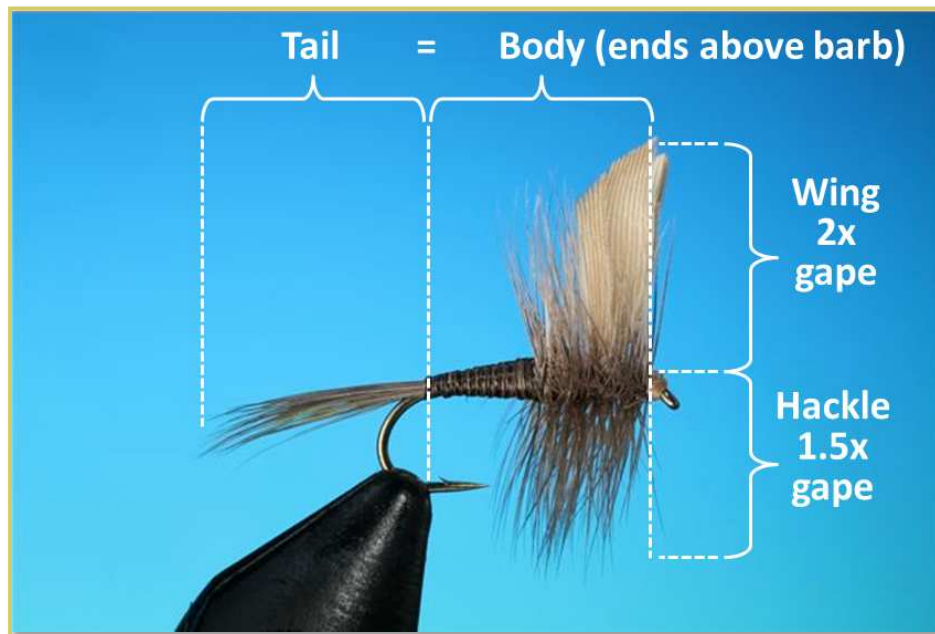


FIGURE 1 - UPWINGED DRY FLIES

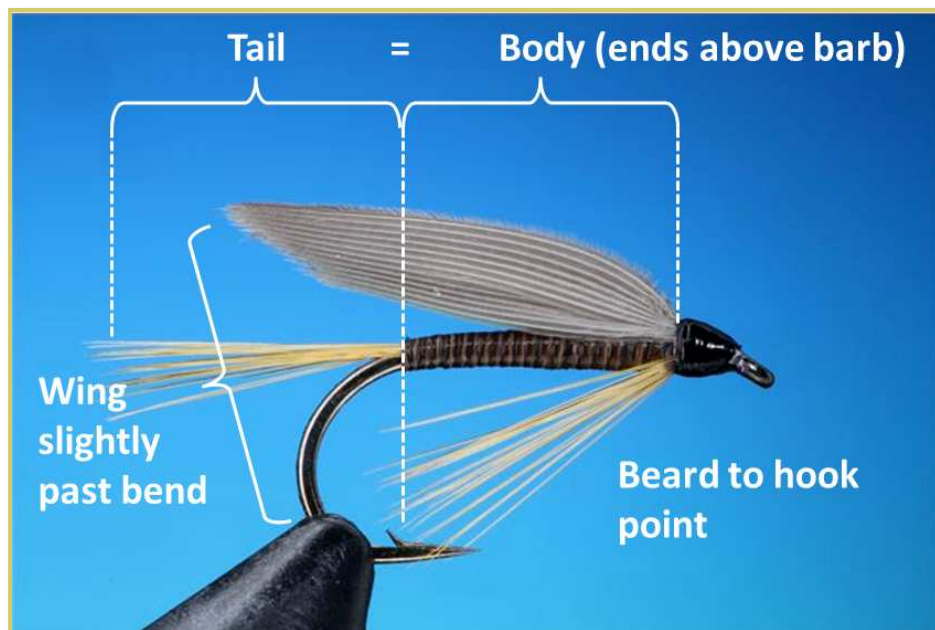


FIGURE 2 - WINGED WET FLIES

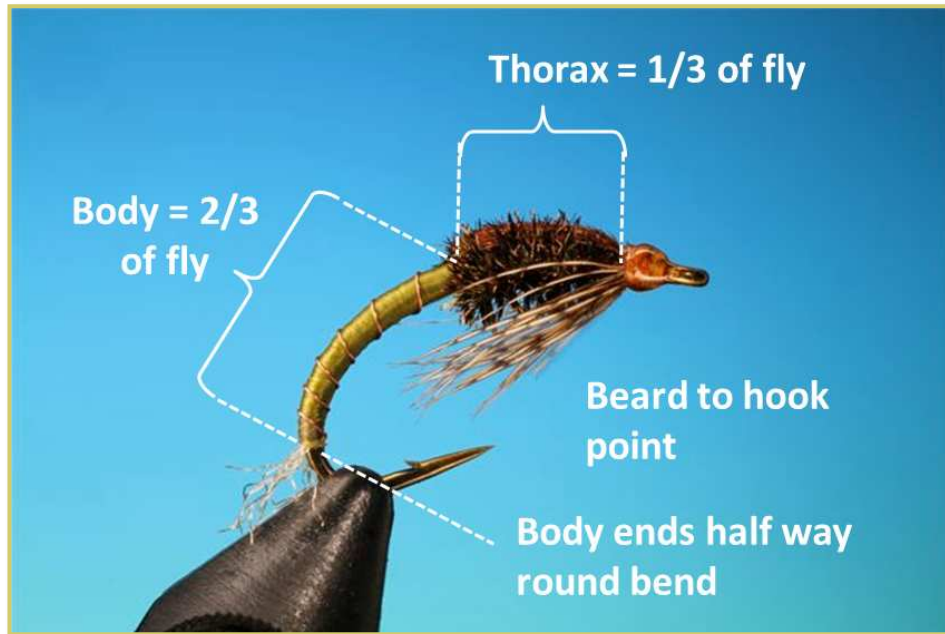


FIGURE 3 – EMERGERS



FIGURE 4 - HAIRWING SALMON FLIES

Techniques

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

Leading a Hook

A lead underbody is a traditional way of weighting nymphs. Creating an even underbody is essential for a tidy fly. Wrap the lead wire in touching turns over a bare shank. Then secure the tying thread onto the hook and wrap a few tight turns immediately behind the lead body.

Tip: wrap the lead wire in the same direction as the tying thread. While this makes tying down the head end of the lead a little more difficult, it ensures that the rear end is secured and cannot move down the shank.

Next, take the thread over the lead in open turns to avoid it going between the turns of lead and separating them and wrap a few tight turns immediately in front of the lead body to secure it in place. Once secured, a drop of varnish can be added to lock the underbody in place and preserve the materials from the effects of lead oxidation.

Tags of Tinsel

Tie in the oval tinsel at the point where you will start wrapping the tag, leaving enough waste end to secure it along the hook shank almost to the eye. Take the thread towards the eye enough to make the turns of tinsel required to form the tag. Wind the tinsel forwards in touching turns to form the tag, making sure the thread at the tying-in point is covered. Tie off the tinsel at the point where the body will begin. To ensure a smooth underbody, tie in all waste material along the shank of the hook, stopping short of the eye.

Tails of Golden Pheasant Crest (Topping)

The crest of the golden pheasant has a natural curve. However, this curve is often distorted as a result of packaging and storage. With smaller flies this is not so much of an issue but for larger salmon flies, any detraction from the proper plane or curve will be very noticeable and unbalance the fly. If the feather does not sit flat on a table with an upwards crescent-shaped curve, it will need some preparation before using it. There are many methods, but perhaps the simplest one is to simply steam the feather over a hot kettle (taking care not to scald yourself) and then place it on a suitable curved surface to dry: for smaller feathers, use something like a herb or spice jar from the kitchen; for larger crests, use a glass or beer bottle. Make sure the feather is completely dry before you use it.

When tying in a crest feather, ensure it is the correct length and then secure with a loop and pinch on top of the hook shank. With larger feathers it may be necessary to flatten the stem of the feather (with e.g. a pair of pliers or between the grips of your scissors) before tying it in, to prevent it rolling off the top of the hook shank. Start at the bottom of the stem and work your way upwards to the tying in point.

Stripped Peacock Herl Bodies

The best-marked quills come from the herl in the eye section of a peacock tail feather. The larger the eye, the more marked the colours on the quill. Removing the fibres from the quill can be done in several ways. Rubbing the quill with a pencil eraser is popular, as is running a thumbnail along the quill. Alternatives include bleaching and waxing. Pre-prepared quills are available and may be used.

Wrap the quill in touching turns to form the body, leaving no gaps or the underbody will show through. The quill is steeply tapered so, if tied in right by the tip, a large number of turns will be required to make the body, resulting in a striped rather than segmented effect. Tie in the quill about one-third of the way down from the tip to get a properly segmented body.

If the quills prove to be fragile, their flexibility can be improved by soaking in water for half an hour prior to use.

Dubbing – Other Techniques

Dubbing Loop

Form a loop of approximately four inches with the tying thread and secure it on the hook where the dubbing should start. Attach a dubbing spinner to the base of the loop. A pair of heavy hackle pliers may also be used. Prepare the dubbing into a mat, open the loop and insert the dubbing. Tease out the dubbing to the required length. Close the loop tight and spin it. The dubbing will twist with the thread and form a “noodle”. Once the required tightness is achieved, remove the dubbing spinner and wrap the noodle around the hook. Secure it with the tying thread and cut off the excess.

This method is very quick and can be used with almost any long-stapled material including furs, hair and synthetics. However, it can be difficult to create a slim body due to the doubled thread.

Split Thread

Choose a flat thread that splits readily. Prepare the dubbing. Spin the bobbin to flatten the thread and divide it using a finely-pointed needle. Insert the dubbing into the thread and adjust it to the length required. Allow the thread to close up, place your finger under the thread below the dubbing and spin the bobbin. The dubbing will not spin at this stage. After spinning the bobbin a few times, remove your finger and pull the thread tight. The twists will now spread up to the dubbing and form a spiky rope. If the rope is not dense enough, repeat the process.

This method is suitable for all types of dubbing, as the split thread maintains the tension more easily. It is particularly useful for small amounts of specialised dubbing and making fur bodies and collars. However, not all types of thread are suited to this method and it is difficult to build a large dubbed body in one go.

Mole Fur as Dubbing

Due to its very short staple, mole is more difficult to dub than other furs. There is little difference between the guard hairs and the underfur, so the fibres cannot be prepared in the same way as rabbit, for example.

To dub the fur on, cut a clump of fur from the skin and tease it into a mat, offer it up to the thread and carefully dub it on. A very fine layer of wax may be used to help it adhere to the

thread, but make sure that the wax is not visible on the finished body. The wax can also affect the colour of the tying thread, so use a light coloured wax unless you are looking to darken the thread.

Spider Hackles

There are many different styles of spider pattern. The number of turns of hackle and the way the hackle is wound varies from region to region and also from tier to tier. As a general rule, hackles and bodies should be sparse.

Game birds or waterfowl provide the majority of hackles for spider patterns. Their relatively thick stems means that they are often tied in by the tip. The step-by-step for the Dark Watchet on page 19 shows the feather being tied in by the stem - this is only possible because the coot wing covert selected had a thin stem.

Unless otherwise stated, tie in the spider hackle as the first step and complete the body before winding the hackle.

Feather Fibre Wings

Making a wing of feather fibre is often a daunting task for a beginner. However, by following a few simple rules, it is not difficult to consistently produce neat, well-set wings.

Always use a matched pair of left and right feathers, preferably from opposite wings from the same bird. Use the part of the feather that has straight edges and has enough fibre of the same thickness to form the size of wing you require. The thick part of the feather fibre near to the stem of the feather is more difficult to work with and should be avoided if possible. The place where change in thickness occurs can usually be seen on the back of the feather.

Make sure that the selected fibre slips are the same size, then fix them in place on top of the hook with a pinch and loop. Tighten the loop slowly and ensure the pressure is applied in a vertical plane either upwards or downwards. Watch the fibres as they compress. If the feather starts to roll, stop and adjust your pinch.

For wet flies, tie the wing slips in at the head with the fibres along the body. For dry flies, tie the wing slips in at the thorax with the fibres extending over the eye. Once secured, lift the slips to the vertical position and secure them with a few turns of thread in front of the roots.

Tip: Ensure your wing is tied onto a flat base - it will not sit straight if tied in on top of a lumpy hackle or underbody.

Stacking Hair

A hair stacker is used to align the tips of individual hairs before they are tied in as a bunch to form a wing. Hairs stacked in this way give the wing a neat and clearly defined profile.

Choose a stacking tool of a size appropriate for the hair selected. Remove the hair from the skin or tail and hold it by the tips. Remove all the underfur, loose hairs and other debris by gently stroking it out or using a fine-toothed comb. Otherwise, the hair will not stack correctly and the integrity of the tying in point may be compromised.

Once the hair is cleaned, deposit them tip first into the stacker. Rap the base of the stacker firmly on a hard surface several times. Turn the stacker into the horizontal position and hold

Techniques

the top section. Remove the base section to expose the tips. If they are correctly aligned, take hold of the tips and remove them from the stacker. Otherwise, repeat the process.

Once removed from the stacker, take care to keep the tips aligned during the tying in process. The butt ends should be checked for loose hairs and underfur once more before tying in.

It is important that the tube is cleaned after use, as a single stray hair can prevent the next bunch from stacking properly.

Wings of Squirrel

Squirrel tail is a more difficult fur to use than most furs. It is hard and shiny, which makes it slippery. Waxing the silk will help get a firm grip on the fibres. If using a flat thread, remember to spin the bobbin to give your thread a round profile. This will also help get a stronger grip on the hair.

Once the squirrel tail has been secured to the hook shank, it is a good idea to take a couple of tight turns around the base of the fibres (right above the hook shank). A drop of varnish on the cut ends will help ensure the fibres will not move or come out.

When cutting off the excess, be careful to make a tapered cut. This will help form a neat head. Once trimmed, a couple of turns of thread can be worked into the cut ends for additional security.

Wing Posts

There is more than one way to tie in a wing post. The essential requirement is that the finished post is vertical and stable enough to support the wound hackle. Taking several turns of thread around the root of the wing post forms a base for the hackle to be wrapped around. If this base is not firm, the hackle will slide off the post during wrapping, as sufficient tension cannot be applied on a loose base.

For the Klinkhamer Special shown on page 25, the wing post is comprised of a strand of Antron floss tied in by the middle on top of the hook shank. The two halves of the floss are then pulled into the vertical position and secured with a couple of turns of thread immediately in front and behind. The tying in point is reinforced by figure of eight wraps and then about ten turns of thread around the root of the Antron to bring the two strands together and form the base for the hackle. A small drop of varnish can be added to the base at this stage. Make sure it doesn't travel up the wing post.

Another way is to take the post around the underside of the hook and then tie it off on top. This method is a little more secure but can lead to a bulkier thorax area.

Parachute Hackles

The hackle is usually tied in at the wing post at an early stage in the construction of the fly. Current thinking is that parachute hackles should be tied with the good side down to give a saucer shaped hackle. Provided that the hackle is level and densely packed, either way is acceptable.

Polythene or Vinyl Shell-Backs

Shell-backs should be tied in after a leaded underbody (if used) and before the ribbing and body material. Getting the width of the shell back right in the first place is key. As a general rule, the shell-back should be twice the width of the body, so that it comes half-way down each side of the body once in place. You will need to estimate this for the first fly, as the body will not have been tied in yet.

Clip one end of the shell-back to a shallow “V” point and tie it in on top of the hook shank. Ensure the shell-back widens quickly from the tying-in point when pulled over the body. When tying down the shell-back with a rib, ensure that the torque of the rib does not cause the shell-back to migrate over the side of the body.

Nylon Over-Ribbing

Using clear nylon as an over-rib gives a great segmented effect without diminishing the colours of the fly. Nylon is hard and slippery and the end should be crimped with pliers before tying in to ensure it doesn't slip out during winding. Ensure your turns follow any under-rib to give a more pleasing shape to the fly.

Techniques

Notes:

Evaluation Flies

Dark Watchet (Spider)

Dressing

Hook	#12 straight eye Spider hook
Thread	Orange Pearsall's Gossamer silk
Rib	Purple Pearsall's Gossamer silk
Body	A "haze" of natural mole fur
Hackle	Jackdaw throat or suitable substitute – N.B. coot wing covert is probably the most easily sourced
Head	Whip finish and varnish

Tying Instructions

Step 1

Insert the hook into the vice, secure the orange silk at the eye and tie in the hackle facing forwards.



Step 2

Trim off the waste and tie in a strand of purple silk. Take the orange silk to the rear of the hook, trapping the strand of purple along the way, taking care to form an even underbody.



Step 3

Dub the orange silk with a small amount of mole fur. You should be able to see the colour of the silk when the dubbing is wrapped. Wrap the orange and purple silks together towards the eye, ensuring that they lie side by side. Stop about 3mm short of the eye. Tie off the purple silk and remove the waste.



Evaluation Flies

Step 4

Wind the hackle three turns back to the thread position. Bring the orange thread forwards through the hackle, tie it off and remove the excess.

Step 5

Form a neat head, whip finish and varnish.



Tying Tips

- The photograph shows the hackle tied in by the stem because the coot wing covert selected had a fine stem. Otherwise tie the feather in by the tip.
- Mike Harding advises fly tiers that “You may find that swearing a lot helps.”

Notes

A traditional North Country fly that imitates the Iron Blue. Used for trout and grayling in dark waters. Pritt describes it as “one of the daintiest morsels with which you can tempt a trout, and one of the most difficult to imitate successfully.”

Ginger Quill (Traditional Dry)

Dressing

Hook	#14 dry fly hook
Thread	Red 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
Tail	Red-game cock hackle fibres
Body	Stripped peacock quill
Wing	Mallard primary quill slips
Hackle	Red-game cock hackle
Head	Whip finish and varnish

Tying Instructions

Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Then form a body of thread and tie in the tail fibres.



Step 2

Wrap them down along the hook shank to form an even underbody.



Step 3

Tie in two matching mallard wing quill slips taken from opposite wings. Ensure there is sufficient room for two turns of hackle in front of the wings. Set the wings into the upright position, as shown.



Step 4

Wrap the stripped peacock quill in neat touching turns.



Evaluation Flies

Step 5

Tie in the hackle where the body ends. Wrap several turns behind the wing and two turns in front.

Step 6

Form a neat head, whip finish and varnish.



Tying Tips

- When tying in the hackle, strip a few extra fibres from the side of the feather that will touch the hook shank first when wound. This will ensure that the first turn stands at ninety degrees to the hook shank with no trapped fibres and will support subsequent turns, giving a much neater hackle.

Notes

A traditional upwinged dry fly and a good example of the quill-bodied flies so popular on most dry-fly streams. In the Christmas 1880 issue of 'The Field', Francis Francis writes "And there is this further benefit in quill bodies, vis., that they hold no water, and float so much better than fur or silk; and as the dry fly is now so very much in favour, that is no small advantage." As with many of these patterns, there are regional variations in the size and length of the wing. For the purpose of this syllabus, within reason, the size of the wing is less important than consistency across the samples submitted.

Dark Olive (Traditional Wet)

Dressing

Hook	#14 wet fly hook
Thread	Dark green 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
Tail	Dark green or dark olive cock hackle fibres
Body	Stripped peacock quill
Hackle	Dark green or dark olive henny cock or hen hackle
Wing	Mallard primary quill slips
Head	<i>Whip-finish and varnish</i>

Tying Instructions

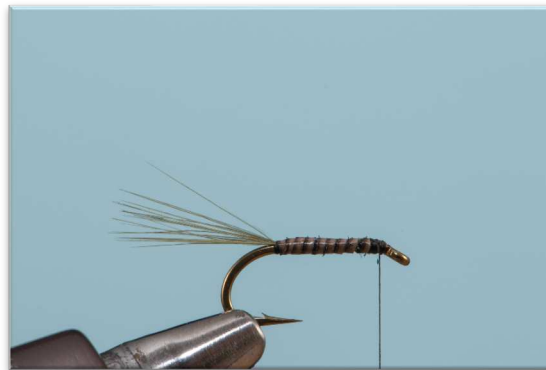
Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and start the thread. Tie in the tails and make a smooth underbody of thread.



Step 2

Tie in and wrap the stripped peacock herl in neat touching turns. Leave room for the hackle.



Step 3

Tie in and wrap two or three turns of green henny cock or hen hackle at the head. Then, either clip the top off the hackle or pull all the fibres down below the hook shank and fix in position with thread. The second method gives a fuller beard hackle.



Evaluation Flies

Step 4

Select two matching wing slips from a mallard primary or secondary feather and tie in on top of the hook.

Step 5

Whip finish and varnish head.



Tying Tips

- This pattern can be tied with a beard hackle or a fully wound hackle shaped to form a beard. For the purpose of this syllabus, please tie this fly with a wound, shaped hackle and shown.
- When shaping the hackle, either pull down all the fibres under the hook and secure with thread or clip the top fibres away. With either method, it is important to leave a flat spot for the wing to sit on.

Notes

A traditional wet fly - great for early season when the Dark Olive are hatching. It is also the basis for many other wet fly patterns where all that changes is the colour of the cock hackle. The use of winged wets has fallen out of fashion.

Klinkhamer Special (Parachute Dry)

Dressing

Hook	#14 curved shank hook
Thread	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread for body, or equivalent White Cobweb for the hackle, or equivalent
Wing post	Antron yarn or similar artificial material
Rib	Fine gold wire
Body	Fine dry fly dubbing
Thorax	Peacock herl
Hackle	Oversized badger cock
Head	Whip finish and varnish

Tying Instructions

Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice, make a bend at about 3mm from the eye if desired, and start the thread.



Step 2

Tie in the wing post.

Step 3

Tie in the rib at the thorax and tie it down to the rear of body, forming a neat underbody.



Step 4

Dub a thin body.

Step 5

Wrap the rib in close even turns to the thorax. Tie down and remove waste.

Step 6

Tie in two strands of peacock herl by the tips. Wrap a neat thorax and whip finish at the eye. Remove the excess.



Step 7

Re position the hook in the vice so that the post is at 90 degrees to the vertical. Change to Cobweb thread and start the thread on the wing post base. Wrap four turns of hackle, each turn below the previous one, then tie off and remove the excess.



Step 8

Whip finish underneath the hackle. Ensure that no fibres protrude below the hook shank. Trim the wing post to the desired length.



Tying Tips

- In the example tied a size 16 Partridge Klinkhamer Extreme has been used. Other hooks are suitable but should be bent to form a flat area by the eye to exaggerate the angle of the body under the water.
- A variety of different coloured wing posts can be tied for different light conditions. Or use different colours for different-sized hooks.
- When tying in the wing post, cut the two sides of the Antron to different lengths. This makes it easy to compress the parachute hackle by separating the two ends of the Antron and pulling them apart and down towards the hook shank (before trimming the wing post!).

Notes

Hans van Klinken's famous pattern, originally tied in sizes 8 or 10 for use in fast flowing Scandinavian rivers. The pattern has been adapted and downsized for use in all trout waters. It is considered by some to be an emerger pattern rather than a dry fly and its use on dry fly-only waters may be frowned upon.

Czech Nymph (Shrimps and Nymphs)

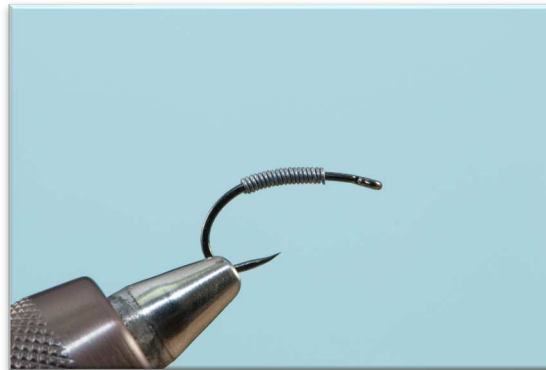
Dressing

Hook	#12 Czech nymph heavy wire hook
Thread	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
Underbody	Lead wire
Under-rib	Fine gold tinsel
Shell back	Clear polythene strip, nymph skin or similar material
Body	Bright green seal's fur
Thorax	Dark green or dark brown seal's fur
Over-rib	6lb clear nylon fishing line
Head	<i>Whip-finish and varnish</i>

Tying Instructions

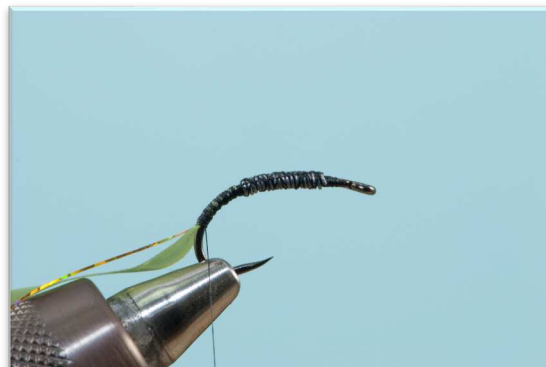
Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice and wind approximately 20 turns of fine lead wire onto the centre of the hook. Secure with thread.



Step 2

Tie in a length of the nylon, followed by the shellback and the under-rib.

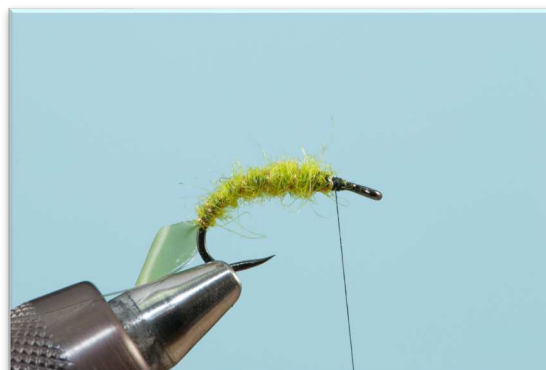


Step 3

Dub a body of bright green seal's fur.

Step 4

Rib the body.



Evaluation Flies

Step 5

Dub the thorax.

Step 6

Carefully position the shell back over the whole fly and secure at the head.

Step 7

Wrap the nylon rib over the whole fly, following the under-rib, taking care to ensure the shell back remains on top of the dressing.

*Step 8.*

Whip finish and varnish head.

Step 9

Take a dark brown or dark green pantone pen and darken the shellback over the thorax to match. Pick out a few fibres from the thorax to represent legs.

**Tying Tips**

- Take care when cutting the shellback – too thin and it will not wrap around the sides of the fly; too thick and the translucence and movement of the seal's fur will be hidden.
- When dubbing the seal's fur, do not overdress the fly as a bulky body will sink more slowly and also narrow the gap between the dressing and the hook point.

Notes

Heavy nymph for grayling and general river fishing. Larger examples are good as a point fly for Czech nymphing.

Blue Charm (Salmon)

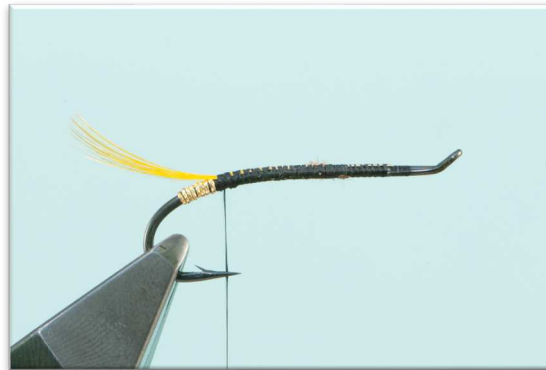
Dressing

Hook	#4 salmon hook
Thread	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
Tag/ Rib	Fine oval gold tinsel
Tail	Golden pheasant topping
Body	Black floss
Beard hackle	Blue henny cock or hen feather
Wing	Natural grey squirrel tail
Head	Whip finish and varnish

Tying Instructions

Step 1

Secure the hook in the vice, start the thread and tie in the oval gold tinsel. Make a tag of at least five turns of tinsel and secure on the underside of the hook.



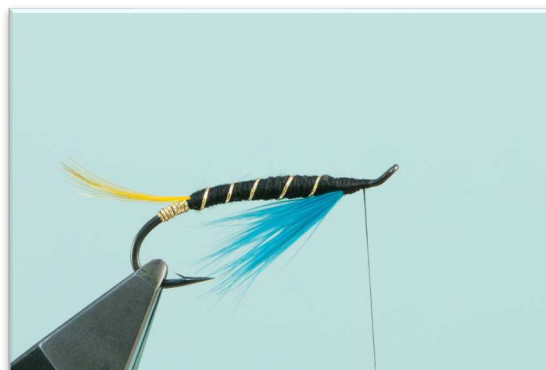
Step 2

Tie in the tail at the tag. Tie down the stem of the feather on top of the hook.



Step 3

Tie in the oval gold tinsel at the tail and take the waste material forward to a point just before the eye to ensure an even underbody.



Step 4

At the head, tie in a length of black floss. Wrap the floss to the tail, return floss to the front of the fly and secure. Remove the waste

Step 5

Wind the rib forwards in four or five open turns, tie off and remove waste.

Step 6

Tie in a hackle of soft blue cock or hen for the beard hackle. A beard hackle or a wound and shaped hackle are both acceptable.

Evaluation Flies

Step 7

Tie in a wing of stacked squirrel tail, roughly 1x the thickness of the body. Take care to ensure the wing is secure and will not slip out.

Step 8

Make a neat head, whip finish and varnish.



Tying Tips

- When tying salmon flies, it is important to remember that many anglers prefer to use a turtleneck knot to attach the fly to the leader. Therefore, there must be enough room at the eye for the knot to be bedded down without interfering with the dressing.
- The length of the tag should be roughly equal to the distance between the barb and the point of the hook.

Notes

One of the most popular hairwing salmon flies, particularly in low and clear water and bright weather conditions. Used around the world. By changing the wing to brown hair, it becomes a Hairy Mary.

Other Flies

In addition to the suggested evaluation flies set out in the previous section of this book, the following flies also use the techniques covered by the Bronze Syllabus.

March Brown Spider (Spiders)



Hook	#12-16 spider hook
Thread	Scarlet Pearsall's Gossamer silk
Body hackle	Palmered black cock hackle
Body	Fox's ear fur (light tan), dubbed sparsely
Hackle	Woodcock undercover
Head	Whip finish and varnish

One of the oldest and most widely-used flies. Very effective in late Spring during March Brown hatches and early Summer during Late March Brown hatches.

Waterhen Bloa (Spiders)



Hook	#12-16 spider hook
Thread	Yellow Pearsall's Gossamer silk
Body	Mole, dubbed sparsely
Hackle	Waterhen (coot) undercover
Head	Whip finish and varnish

Another traditional Northern Country spider. Very effective in the early part of the season when used to imitate large dark olives.

Silver Wickhams Fancy (Traditional Dry)



Hook	#10-16 dry fly hook
Thread	Red 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
Tail	Red-game cock hackle fibres
Body	Silver tinsel
Rib	Fine silver wire
Body hackle	Red-game cock
Head Hackle	Red-game henny cock or hen hackle
Wing	Mallard primary quill slips
Head	Whip finish and varnish

A traditional wet fly, not designed to imitate any particular species but very useful in practically any circumstances.

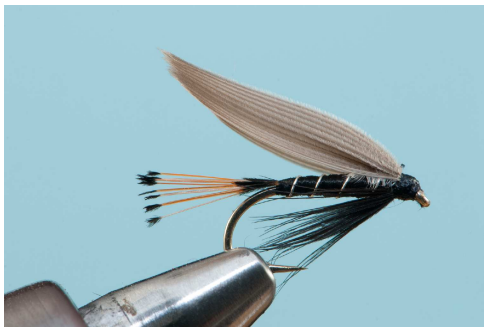
Sulphur Dun (Traditional Dry)



- Hook** #12-16 dry fly hook
- Thread** Yellow 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Tail** Cream or yellow cock fibres
- Body** Yellow herl
- Wing** Mallard primary fibres dyed yellow
- Hackle** Badger cock dyed yellow
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

Sulphur duns come in many shapes, sizes and colour – ranging from mustard yellow to pale olive green. They normally start hatching in late May and on some rivers, the hatch may continue all summer long.

Blae and Black (Traditional Wet)



- Hook** #12-14 wet fly
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Tail** Golden pheasant tippet
- Body** Black floss
- Rib** Fine silver wire
- Hackle** Black “henny “ cock or hen hackle
- Wing** Mallard quill slips
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

Represents a hatching midge. A traditional sombre-looking winged wet fly, useful just about anywhere.

Coachman (Traditional Wet)



- Hook** #10-14 wet fly
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Body** Peacock herl
- Rib (optional)** Fine gold wire
- Hackle** Red-game hen hackle
- Wing** White duck or turkey primary wing slip
- Head** Whip finish and varnish.

Believed to represent either beetles or midges.

Parachute Adams (Parachute Dry)



- Hook** #10-20 dry fly
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent and Cobweb, 14/0 or equivalent for parachute
- Tail** Mixed grizzle and red-game cock hackle fibres
- Body** Grey fur (muskrat, mole or rabbit, depending on hook size)
- Post** White Antron
- Hackle** Mixed grizzle and red-game cock hackle
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

A good all-round dry fly popular pattern on trout rivers around the world.

Pheasant Tail Emerger (Parachute Dry)



- Hook** #12-16 curved shank or Klinkhamer hook
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent and Cobweb, 14/0 or equivalent for parachute
- Tail** Four strands fine pearl crystal flash
- Body** Pheasant centre tail
- Rib** Fine gold wire
- Thorax** Green seal's fur
- Post** White Antron
- Hackle** Red-game cock hackle

Effective fly in almost any mayfly hatch.

Hot Spot Shrimp (Shrimps and Nymphs)



- Hook** #10-14 Czech nymph heavy wire hook
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Underbody** Lead wire
- Shell back** Green polythene, nymph skin or similar material
- Body** Bright green seals fur
- Hot spot** Fluorescent orange seal's fur
- Over-rib** 6lb clear nylon fishing line
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

An effective pattern for trout and grayling reacting to the hot spot trigger point.

Hog Louse (Shrimps and Nymphs)



- Hook** #10-14 Czech nymph heavy wire hook
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Underbody** Lead wire
- Shell back** Clear polythene, nymph skin or similar material
- Body** Long fibred hare's fur, picked out to form legs
- Rib** Fine gold tinsel
- Over rib** 6lb clear nylon fishing line
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

A popular all-year round source of food for stillwater trout, but particularly in early and late season, when fly pupae are dormant.

Thunder & Lightning Variant (Salmon)



- Hook** #2-14 single salmon
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Tail** Golden pheasant topping
- Tag** Oval gold tinsel
- Body** Black floss
- Rib** Oval gold tinsel
- Wing** Black over orange bucktail or squirrel tail
- Throat hackle** Natural guinea fowl over orange cock
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

Believed to have been invented by James Wright in the mid-nineteenth century, the hairwing version is still very popular. The original used blue guinea fowl.

Silver Stoa (Salmon)



- Hook** #2-14 single salmon
- Thread** Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent
- Tail** Golden pheasant topping
- Tag** Oval silver tinsel
- Body** Silver tinsel
- Rib** Oval silver tinsel
- Wing** Black squirrel tail
- Throat hackle** Black cock hackle
- Head** Whip finish and varnish

As reliable and effective as any salmon fly can be. Can be used in all seasons and in all conditions.

Notes:

Evaluation Form – Silver Syllabus



Name:	Membership No.:
Branch:	Instructor:

Fly	Evaluation Comments	Pass?	Initials
<i>Dark Watchet</i>			
<i>Ginger Quill</i>			
<i>Dark Olive</i>			
<i>Klinkhamer Special</i>			

Evaluation Form – Silver Syllabus

<i>Czech Nymph</i>			
<i>Blue Charm</i>			

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

FDG registered Assessor:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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