

# Hatches

*The Online Magazine For Fly Fishing Enthusiasts World Wide!*

**Chasing Browns**  
**At the Bottom of the Earth**

**Fly Tying:**  
**Deadly Streamers**  
**The Woolly Bugger**  
**The Bird Boat Fly**  
**The Jassid**

**Opening Day**  
**TROUT TACTICS**

# Hatches

The Online Magazine For Fly Fishing Enthusiasts World Wide!

## In this issue...

Spring 2005 Volume 1 Issue 1

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&

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### On the Cover:

Fresh Great Lakes Spring steelhead.

Photo Credit: Karin Zandbergen

Hatches Magazine is made available free of charge to all readers due to the unrelenting desire to expand the sport of fly fishing, and the art of fly tying, on behalf of all parties listed above.

Hatches Magazine thanks these volunteers for their time and efforts required to make this publication possible.

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## Feature Pattern



## Joe's Sculpin

- Hook:** Alec Jackson Spey #5
- Eyes:** Lead dumbbell eyes painted yellow & black
- Tail:** 6 to 8 strands of matching colored Krystal Flash
- Wing:** Matching colored zonker strip
- Body:** Super Fly Tri-Lobal hackle in matching colors
- Front Fins:** Barred chickabou, 2 plumes per side
- Head:** Hareline woolhead dubbing, matching color

This interesting sculpin pattern, often tied in tan, brown, or any shade of olive, is a popular choice when chasing anything from large trout to smallmouth bass.

**Joe Penic**, a guide and professional fly tyer hailing from Grinstone Angling in Ontario inspired this pattern.

It's isn't very often that I've been able to associate myself with such a truly great group of individuals such as those I've met, talked to and fished with at flytyingforum.com. Since I first stumbled upon this forum, not even a full 2 years ago, I was amazed at the friendly atmosphere and easy going attitude which



the site exuded. Since that day it was very apparent to me that fishermen and women, but especially fly fishers are cut from a different cloth. Regardless of location, origin, political or religious beliefs which so commonly divide all too many of us in today's World, we share something in common; a passion for a past time which goes so much deeper than anyone else can ever understand. We spend countless hours trying to help each other decipher the secrets of the river. From the near microscopic lifeforms which fish eat, to the science and art of building our own rods and tying our own flies.

Finding comfort in knowing there are others like us out there is something we embrace on the forum by sharing ideas, opinions, success stories and trials with each other. Fly fishing is one of the most individual hobbies a person can find today. It can literally mean many different things to each of us yet at the end of the day it connects us all. For some it's the solitude of being on the water, for others it's a throwback to the younger years when they accompanied their father or grandfather to the river, and for others still it's a way of understanding and outsmarting mother nature, if only just for a brief moment.

Ultimately this is why **Hatches Magazine**, the first publication of it's kind, is here. To take our passion one step further. To empower fly fishers with even more information than ever before and to give those wanting to help another venue in which they can share their thoughts and ideas.

There is no doubt in my mind that the large, yet tight knit group of fly fishers, stemming from every corner of the Globe, will only grow stronger on FTF. On behalf of the entire FTF team, I would like to thank all members for not only helping us, but others as we looking forward to that next day we get to spend on the water.

- **Nick Pujic**

# Chasing Browns at the Bottom of the Earth

*Tierra del Fuego, Land of Fire, River Goats and Ledge Hogs*

In the waning minutes of dusk a Blue Heron stabs the water, eagerly seeking a fine Trout dinner; the cold winds are gone; even the drizzle stops long enough to allow the bird to gulp his meal while peeking at his reflection in the water with contentment. It is now cold and dark; my week of fishing for large lake-run Browns in New York is over. Someday, I'll catch a 20-pound Brown- hopefully, next year.

Having made this week-long trip for several years now during the end of October, I knew the walk up the steep, gravelly hill on the last evening of the trip would offer feelings of mixed emotions; sadness for departing, exhilaration and fond memories of magnificent fish, battles and releases combined with excitement and longing for next year.

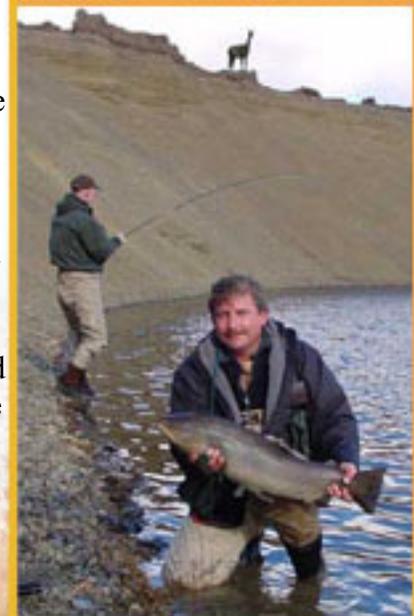
Frogs croak in the fallen leaves, the winds pick up and the drizzle hangs heavy on my fly vest. "We sure caught a lot of nice fish," said my new friend as we near the top of the hill. Too bad I have to wait a whole year before wading waters teeming with migratory Brown Trout, I replied. As we slipped out of our waders I heard a statement that almost made my heart stop beating. "I'm going fishing for Sea-run Brown Trout in Chile next April- would you like to come with me?"

My friend's name is Jim Teeny, and my excitement and anticipation is red hot; "YES- I would love to go!" and the commitment was made. Jim tried to calm me down by telling me "it won't be a numbers trip, like here, but you might catch a 20-pounder fresh from the salt." That did little to quench the fire now burning inside me, knowing the pages on my calendar could not be turned quickly enough until April finally arrived. At least there would be plenty of time to research fly patterns and tactics for catching those sea-run browns.

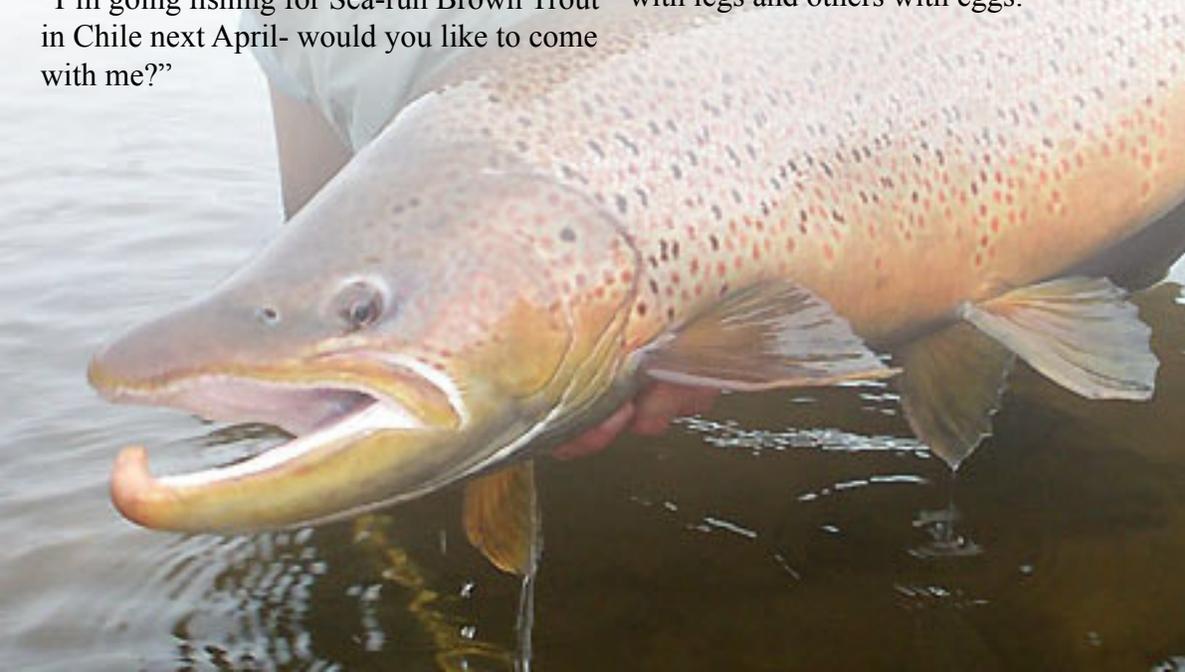
From researching; Woolly Buggers, stripped fast, causing reactionary strikes seemed to be the guiding principals for enticing these fish to bite. My fly boxes were quickly filled with Buggers; long, short, fat, skinny; some with legs and others with eggs.



Pacific Ocean



Text & Photos:  
Graham Owen



# Tierra del Fuego

Being a fly tier who gets enjoyment from tying insects, I filled another box with mayflies, stoneflies and caddis nymphs. The migratory browns in NY like green caddis nymphs; I wouldn't dream of making this trip without a couple dozen, hoping the Chilean trout would react much the same. I quickly tied up a few dozen, even in extra large sizes, hoping to be prepared for anything.

Finally, the trip was starting; the flight over the Straits of Magellan from Puntas Arenas to Tierra del Fuego in the twin Otter was bumpy, loud and exhilarating. As we skimmed the tree-tops small herds of Guanacos scattered beneath us, and I had never been so excited.

There were six of us on this trip including Niko, a professional photographer working on a fly-fishing book for a Chilean publisher. During the van ride to Cameron Lodge Niko checked his camera bags and seemed somewhat confused about catch-and-release fishing. "Cruel and unusual" he said. "Mankind has messed up this part of the world, non-native animals have been introduced, native species have disappeared and the rivers used to be full of life until these trout were introduced over one hundred years ago."



**Author with fishing buddy, Jim Teeny, boasting a 20lb Chilean brown.**

"What do you mean, full of life?" I asked. "Well, there used to be prolific insect and smaller fish species until the trout ate them all; these fish are nothing more than River Goats."

River Goats? Fish that consume everything in sight? This definitely sounded like music to my ears! The van pulled up to the lodge. I jumped out ready to pull a fly line through my rod guides and tie on a Size 4 Green Caddis, a beefy and hopefully tempting fly. The introductions were over, a glass of fine Chilean wine was chugged instead of sipped, and we departed in four-wheel drives for a few hours fishing before dinner.

The wind was calm, the sun was off the water and I started casting my 6 wt. that had tamed numerous NY browns to 17 pounds. Bam! My rod bent in half and the fish took off like a freight train. I was more accustomed to large brownies holding their ground while head shaking, rolling and occasionally jumping. I thought to myself; "you've got your 20-pounder on the line- this isn't a numbers trip- calm down, and if I don't catch anymore fish all week, it doesn't matter, this is it." Almost half an hour later the fish was finally landed.

A Silver Female, weighing approximately 14 pounds. This fish had shoulders; muscles instead of fat, the green tint on the gills that I love so much, and was over 5 kilos, the minimum size to be entered into the Lodge logbook. Fifteen minutes later I had another one on, a Male dressed in full spawning colors that weighed about 10 pounds; unfortunately, too small for the logbook. My setup included a 6 wt. GLX fly rod, Teeny T-130 sinking line, five-foot, 12-pound fluorocarbon leader, and my unusually large green caddis nymph. This is going to be easy, I thought.

The next day we separated into groups of two and were taken via four-wheeler to fish different holes in the Rio Grande. I was up early and ready with my 6 wt. and box of nymphs. A beautiful, sunny day, until the winds started blowing from the South. It was a strong, bone-chilling wind from Antarctica, and I was having trouble casting my 6 wt. into the gale. That morning was a struggle; no fish landed or even hooked. The memory of the prior evening kept me warm until we went back to the lodge for a delicious lunch of barbecued lamb. I took the reel off the 6 wt. and put it on a 9 1/2' IMX, a rod I had not fished with very often. That afternoon the winds remained strong and the Teeny T-130 line did not cast well with the 8 wt. rod. My struggling continued until dark, with no fish caught all day.

Thank God Jim Teeny brought extra boxes of his signature fly lines along. I brought several reels and promptly spooled up a T-200 fly line. Although I was exhausted it was hard to fall asleep that first night, and I stayed up late drinking and talking to the resident guides. "Stripping rubber legged buggers is the key," explained Roberto. "The one day record in the Cameron Lodge logbook is five fish over 5 kilos, all caught on a black rubber legged Woolly Bugger, by a Frenchman" he said. Wow, I thought, imagine that.



## Chasing Browns at the Bottom of the Earth

The next morning I was ready; 8 wt., T-200, with boxes of nymphs and buggers. I was taken to a hole a couple miles from the lodge called Arco Iris, which means “Rainbow” in Spanish. Roberto positioned me on the inside corner of a large bend in the river. It was obviously a deep hole because the surface appeared to have very little current, if any. Fifty-foot casts up and across, with a powerful upstream mend, was typically the way to fish this hole said Roberto, as he removed my fly and tied on a black rubber leg Woolly Bugger of his own design, which even had a glow-in-the-dark head for night fishing. The weather was unusually warm. Guanacos would appear curious on the hilltop in front, while the occasional eagle or condor would circle overhead.



Heeding Roberto’s advice paid off; stripping buggers worked- two nice fish were caught that day. The underwater currents were strong enough to be deceptive; many times I thought a trout had taken my fly but nothing was there when trying to set the hook. I figured there must be a sizable undercut on the opposite side of the river. I wanted to cross the shallower swift part of the river, below the pool, and try the other side, but I listened to Roberto and held my ground.

The next day I was whisked off to fish the Frontier Hole, close to the border of Argentina, where Jim Teeny and two other anglers from our group had a great day, and even had triple hookups. Jim only fished his Teeny flies. No matter how persuasive the guides became, he wouldn’t let them cut his tippet and

put on “The Fly.” Jim caught his largest brown trout to date that day, which weighed well over 20 pounds. He also mentioned that his Ginger-colored nymph was working well, so I decided to pass on stripping buggers and fish some nymphs that day.

The Frontier Hole was full of huge, rounded boulders, with large pocket water and riffles above and below. I drifted my Green Caddis for hours through every slot, around every boulder, without any luck. I looked into my box of nymphs and the only flies even close in color to ginger was a row of Golden Stoneflies.

Two fish were caught that afternoon using stoneflies and I decided that this stretch of river, which was apparently full of fish yesterday, was quite empty of fish today; they had moved on during the night. I remembered the bright moon from the prior evening and realized that migratory browns most likely travel through miles of skinny water at night and rest in the deep holes during daylight.

After breakfast the next morning Roberto asked if I wanted to try a new spot or try again at the Frontier Hole. Arco Iris is where I wanted to fish today. Three of us pulled up, Roberto handed us our fly rods and I headed straight downstream and crossed over to the other side. With 8 wt., T-200 and a large Green Caddis in hand I cast straight upstream and let the line sink, slowly stripping to keep in contact with my fly. The hole felt like it was between 20 to 30 feet deep and about 20 feet in front of me the current would pull the fly under the bank.

I figured out I was standing on a ledge that had an undercut, which had close to a 10 foot setback. It almost felt like deep high-stick nymphing beneath my feet, and just when I was getting a kick out of the weirdness of this drift, my rod tip pulled down violently.



# Chasing Browns at the Bottom of the Earth

Fish on! I yelled to Roberto, who didn't look too happy about crossing with his net and scale. My 8 wt. allowed for landing these powerful fish much faster than the 6 wt., but it still took about 10 to 20 minutes of hard pulling to lift them from the depths. This fish was a beautiful female brownie weighing 7 kilos, or 15 ½ pounds. On my side of the river the sun was in my face, the warmth was appreciated and the wind was calm. I can think of no better place to fly fish, I thought.

By lunchtime I had landed 5 fish big enough for the logbook. The congratulations and toasting to my success at the lodge was invigorating. This trip was better than I imagined possible. After lunch I went back to Arco Iris and finished what became the best day's trout fishing I have ever had. Thirteen fish were entered into the book that day, more than double the previous record- and my largest was a silver and blue female weighing 9.8 kilos, well over 20 pounds. A couple of males weighing 17 to 18 pounds, spectacularly colored in oranges and reds almost as vivid as the sunset were weighed in that day.

The next day found our entire group fishing the ledge at Arco Iris. Even Niko seemed excited while taking



photographs. For some reason, Niko thought we could, while fighting fish, make them jump at will right in front of him; luckily, Jim Teeny had a fish on that seemed to do just that. Niko's talk of cruelty faded into jubilation; he was getting his fish jumping shots, guys "high-fiving", as well as us all carefully releasing fish. We were a happy group, all catching fish. We were appropriately nicknamed by Jim Teeny- the "Ledge Hogs."

I now know why Tierra del Fuego is called "Land of Fire" and someday I hope to return. I will never forget my fishing trip to Chile. I even fished for a few days in the Andes near Puerto Montt- but that's another story. I came home knowing that migratory Brown Trout do INDEED feed while migrating, for once; a full moon is a good thing while timing a trip, and confidence and experimentation can pay off!

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# Saltwater Fly Fishing

Your Opportunity To Get Tips, Tricks & Advice from Saltwater Experts

## WELCOME!

Some of you may not have fished for saltwater fish. Some of you may have fished the salt for a long time. Saltwater fishing is a “step above” freshwater fly-fishing; at least that’s what the guys who fish salt will tell you! It’s taking your talent in catching freshwater species while adapting those abilities by using your knowledge in fly-fishing to a whole different level. It’s taking those little flies and making them bigger - much bigger!

You may not live near saltwater - which, of course, is okay. But you may have taken trips to a beach, or, I bet, you would love to, at least once, if for nothing else than to try your luck. I know there are guys out there who have never caught a Striper on a fly. In fact, just last week, after visiting a fly shop looking for tying materials, a fellow angler came in and asked for info on saltwater fly-fishing.

So- I know you guys are out there and have questions you would like to have answered.

Questions - It may seem foolish to ask them but the only way to learn is to ask! Everyone wants to learn; all questions will be answered; from rods to reels to lines, clothing and flies; fishing from a boat; fishing from the beach, the flats, in rips and holes and much, much more. Saltwater fly-fishing is different up and down the East Coast.

Different flies for different places- this would be nothing new if you have fly fished before- for fresh water you call it “match the hatch.” In saltwater it’s just BIGGER! From No. 6 - 10/0 hooks. From your 4 - 6 wt. to 9 -12 wt. rods and, if you’re a saltwater FIN-AT-IC, even 15wt rods! From ‘zero’ backing on your tiny trout reel, to 600 yards at times on your blue-water salt fly crank.

It all has it’s place in saltwater. It’s not hard to do. A little knowledge, a little time spent on the water and you too WILL be catching 38” Stripers. The season is almost upon us. If you’re a saltwater nut like I am, you will spend your time following fish from New York all the way up the East Coast and back down again in the fall. Some of us just seem to never get enough which leads us to fly tying, swapping, attending and enjoying shows in the off season. We all are trying to extend our favorite pastime as long as we can;

some of us will even go out and check the tides and watch what the winter storms have done to the beaches, checking out new sand bars, rips, holes, inlets and creeks, to see any changes, just to have that advantage- and to know where the fish will be for the next season. Some fishermen keep logs and pictures to refer to. Some even take readings from buoys to read the waters, looking for a warm water stream that will bring the fish in.

I won’t take up more of your time just rambling on, other than to say I have over 30 years of salt water fly fishing under my belt and still enjoy every moment on the water; sometimes just the drive to and from is more interesting than fishing- that’s just one story I can tell you about another time- so I’ll be here!

GOOD LUCK and GOOD FISHIN!

Rich Soriano *aka SALTYDOG*



**Ask our saltwater editor a question by  
writing to us at:  
[editor@hatchesmagazine.com](mailto:editor@hatchesmagazine.com)**

# Fly Tying Feature

Text & Photos:  
Nick Pujic

# Hales' Minnow



## A guide's secret for small stream trout

It's been about 10 years since I first laid eyes on this fly, which at first glance didn't seem like anything extraordinary. Glen Hales, a good friend, long time fishing buddy as well as a successful guide, and I were targeting resident browns in a nearby creek trying to capitalize on the spinner fall which was taking place. We were able to fool numerous 8 to 10 inch sippers with our dries, but the 20+ inch browns we knew were there refused to cooperate. After nearly an hour of drifting various dry flies past a likely lie, I was ready to retire for the day when I noticed Glen reaching for his fly box.

Hoping to escape the cloud of relentless black flies which, by now, was almost as thick as the expiring mayflies, I moved away from the stream to a clearing where the bugs were more tolerable and decided to observe Glen at what as sure to be his last attempt of the evening. To my outmost disbelief, Glen's textbook cast to the same riffle I had been fishing for an hour was answered by an immediate whirl and the unmistakable sound of a screaming drag. Within minutes Glen brought a beautiful 22" resident brown to hand.

Not wasting any time I hurried back to the bank to take a look at this magnificent fish. To this day I'll never forget that sight. In a sea of smaller trout feeding on size 16



**Hook:** Mustad streamer hook 3x shank, sizes 8 through 2

**Thread:** UNI 6/0, black & white

**Body:** Braided pearl mylar tubing, over white poly yarn and lead wire.

**Tail:** Strands of mylar tubing used on body, trimmed long and left exposed.

**Wing:** White, brown and black bucktail, from bottom to top, with 2 grizzly saddle feathers, one on each side.

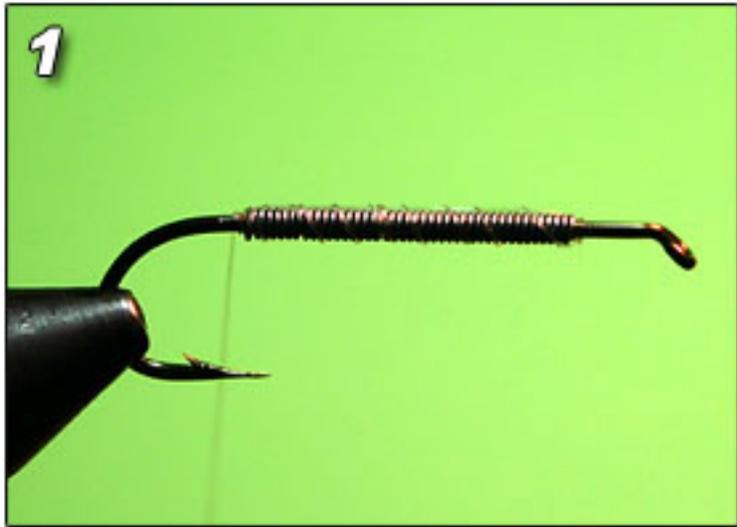
Hendricksons, Glen had fooled a 22" brown using a size 4 streamer, one of his own creations. There were many lessons to be learned that day.

Hales' Minnow is undoubtedly a Black Nose Dace (BND) variant. It has a tri-colored bucktail wing, a mylar body and a pronounced head. Despite the similarities this pattern has been a consistent performer for me since that day, much more so than any BND I've ever fished. In fact, I've learned to appreciate this pattern so much, that it has become one of my favorite go-to patterns when exploring new water or, more commonly, nothing else is producing. The fly has helped me land every kind of trout available in my area, from browns and brookies, to rainbows and even lakers. Its' fish catching abilities aren't limited to cold water species. When tied in larger sizes, this fly can be equally deadly on smallmouth bass and pike in larger rivers and lakes.

What makes this pattern so special? It may just be a case of confidence, however I truly believe the grizzly saddles, beefy body and lead weight add to the formula. For these reasons, the Hales' Minnow sits right next to the woolly bugger in my fly box.

# Hales' Minnow

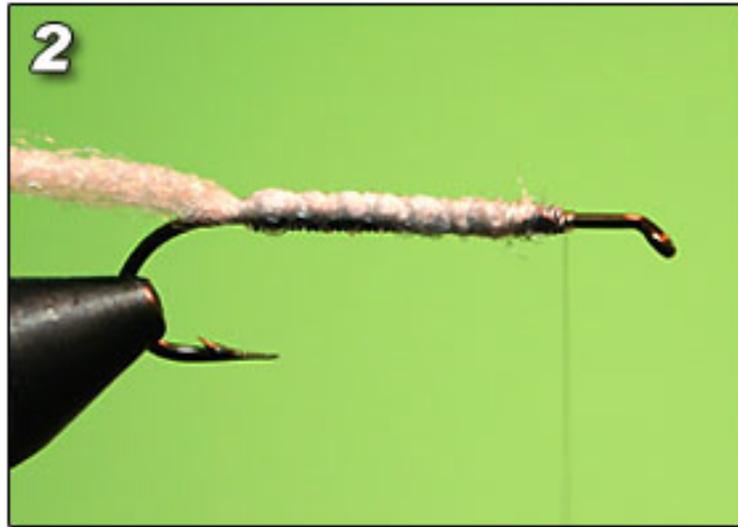
1



## Step 1:

Secure the hook in the vise. Wrap a layer of .015 gauge lead wire along the length of the entire hook shank, with a bit of room near the eye of the hook. Once the lead is in place, start the white thread and secure the lead. You will need two colors of 6/0 thread for this fly, white and black. Start with the white.

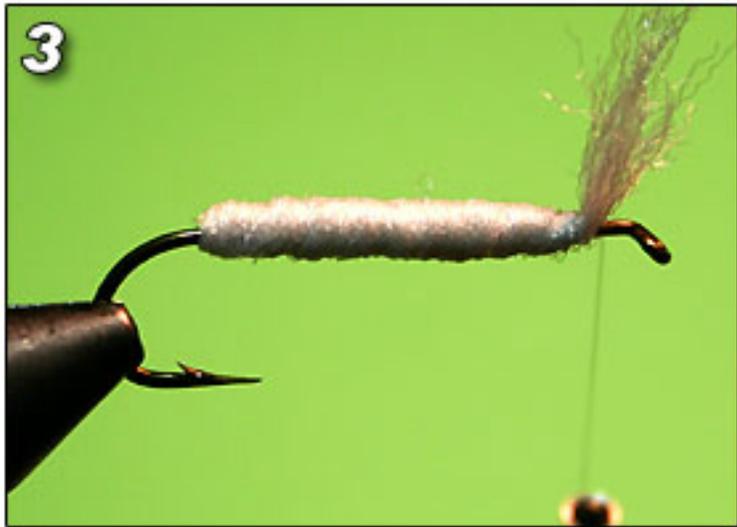
2



## Step 2:

Prepare a 5" strand of white poly yarn and tie it in on top of the hook shank, covering the entire length of the lead underbody. The strand should be tied so that it extends past the bend of the hook, like a tail, for the time being. Once done, move the thread near the eye of the hook.

3



## Step 3:

Wrap the poly yarn forward, creating an even, white underbody covering the lead wire underneath. Once all of the lead has been covered, tie down the poly yarn and trim the excess. Move the thread to the back of the fly, at the end of the underbody you just created.

4



## Step 4:

Take a 2" strand of medium, pearl mylar tubing and remove the packaging string found inside. Slip the mylar tubing over the eye of the hook and slide it towards the bend. Fray the tubing about 1/4" at the end nearest to the bend of the hook then tie it down, creating a tail.

# Hales' Minnow

5



## Step 5:

Still using the white thread, make 3 to 4 wraps over the mylar tubing, starting from the base of the tail, towards the eye, to create a rib which will make the fly more durable. Once you near the eye of the fly, trim the excess mylar and whip finish the white thread. Directly over top, start your 6/0 black thread.

6



## Step 6:

Now that the body and tail are in place, start the wing by tying in a small clump of white bucktail, measuring approximately 1 1/2 to 2 times the length of the hook. Trim the excess.

7



## Step 7:

Continue building the wing by tying in another small clump of brown or tan bucktail directly on top of the first. Trim the excess when done. The length of the brown bucktail should be the same as the white you tied in during the previous step.

8



## Step 8:

Finish the main wing by tying in a 3rd and final small clump of black bucktail on top of the first two. Again the length of the black bucktail should match the previous two. Trim the excess. Build up a pronounced head using black thread; this is a typical feature of many creek and river minnows found across North America.

# Hales' Minnow

9



## Step 9:

Finish the fly by tying in two grizzly saddle feathers, one on each side of the fly. Trim the excess, whip finish and apply head cement. Further variations, such as an all synthetic and tube version, are also very successful.

## Synthetic Wing Variant



## Brass Tube Variant



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# Member Gallery

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## Wool Head Sea Robin

**Submitted By FTF Member:** Mark Gustavson

**Fly Type:** General Saltwater

**Target Species:** Striped Bass

**Region Fished:** Northeast US

### Materials Used

**Hook:** EC 254 #4/0

**Thread:** Olive

**Tail:** White bucktail under white neck hackle (curve side up) under 1 white saddle (curve side down) under pink flashabou under a cree saddle under copper flashabou under a cree saddle.

**Collar:** (Tied just in front of tail): TOP:1 orange marabou under 2 ginger marabou under bucktail (tan, olive blended) on top and sides.

**Cheeks:** (Tied in just in front of tail) Large reddish brown golden pheasant breast feather under a grouse feather.

**Body:** Lead wire wrapped on the the first 1/3 behind the hook eye; spun olive (tan would be better but I didn't have it) sculpin wool trimmed.

**Eyes:** Prismatic

**Notes:** The bucktail and GP and grouse feathers surround the marabou to keep it from fouling.



## Pop's Spiny Water Flea

**Submitted By FTF Member:** fishink

**Fly Type:** Wet

**Target Species:** Steelhead

**Region Fished:** Northeast US

### Materials Used

**Hook:** Daichii 1120 Heavy scud Size #16

**Thread:** 8/0 white

**Tail:** 4 strands of White Supreme Hair

**Body:** Psuedo seal polar white dubbing

**Shellback:** White Supreme hair

**Eyes:** Extra small mono

### Tying Instructions

Tie in eyes followed by tail. Then select a small bundle of supreme hair hanging off towards the back. Dub the body and pull the bundle of supreme hair forward leaving a small loop above the body and tie it off. The small loop adds a translucent affect in the water. Trim the excess leaving two strands forward as antenna.

Spiny Water Flea is a small 1 cm long organism found in Lake Erie that is common summer forage.



# Member Gallery

FLYTYINGFORUM.COM



## Fontinalis

**Submitted By FTF Member:** TroutBum

**Fly Type:** Wet

**Target Species:** Trout

**Region Fished:** Northeast US

### Materials Used

**Hook:** Herter's #6, 4x long streamer.

**Thread:** 6/0 black Danville's Flymaster.

**Tail:** Orange goose.

**Body:** Jaffa orange SLF.

**Rib:** Gold mylar tinsel.

**Wing:** Married strips of orange, black and white goose.

### Tying Instructions

This is an easy tie except for the mounting of the tail and wings. Stripwing mountings are covered in many books, and for the most part, inadequately. If you want to learn the "secret" of mounting strip wings and married wings, go here:

<http://www.salmonflysupply.com/wingsetter.htm>

### Presentation Tips

Down and across, like any other streamer.



## Whit's Hairbug - Natural

**Submitted By FTF Member:** CharlieD

**Fly Type:** Deer Hair

**Target Species:** Freshwater Bass

**Region Fished:** Throughout North America

### Materials Used

**Hook:** Bass bug or stinger hook.

**Weed guard:** Stiff mono.

**Tail:** Brown marabou. Multi colored krystal flash and 2 grizzly hackles on each side.

**Collar:** Brown hackle and natural deer hair.

**Legs:** Yellow, orange and black rubber legs.

**Body:** Spun and trimmed deer hair, natural, black, red and orange.

**Eyes:** Yellow and black doll eyes.

### Tying Instructions

Saturate face of bug with flex cement.

Originated by Dave Whitlock

# The Hendrickson Hatch

Text: Roger Rohrbeck



N.Pujic Photo

The Hendrickson was chosen to profile because the timing of its hatch is close to the publication date of this online magazine. For many fly fishers, this will be the first major hatch of the season.

Hendrickson is the common name for a mayfly referred to by the scientific community as *Ephemerella subvaria* (ef-fem-er-ella sub-vary-uh). *E. subvaria* may be found in the East and Mid-West, and is one of 655 mayfly species known to reside on the continent of North America. The following hierarchy illustrates how taxonomists classify the Hendrickson:

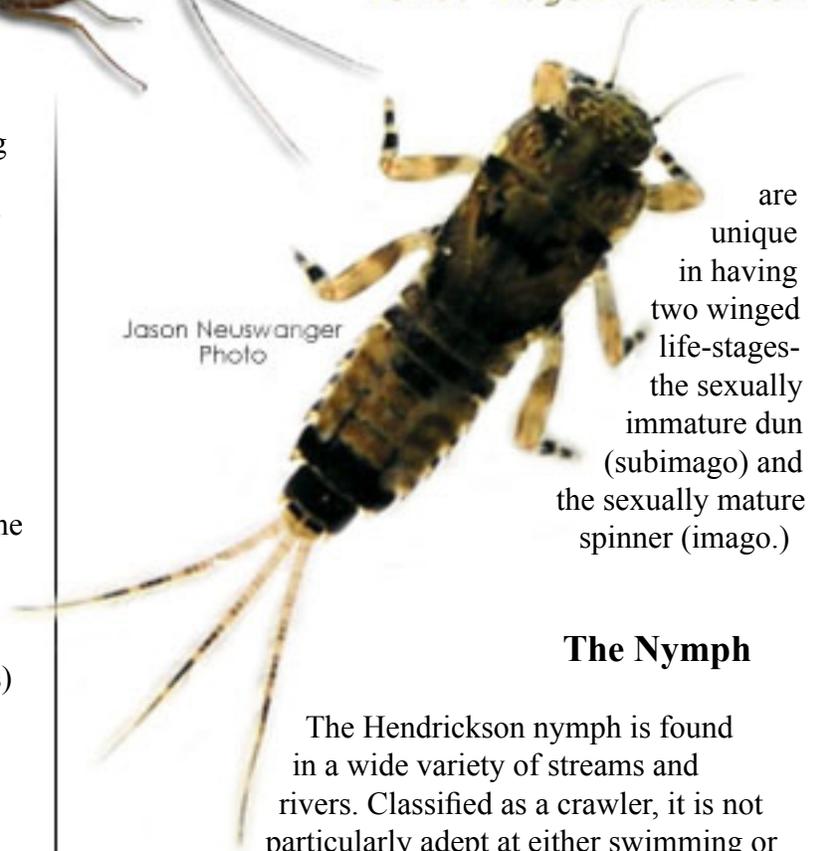
- Kingdom: Anamalia (animal)
- Phylum: Arthropoda (segmented invertebrate, jointed legs)
- Subphylum: Hexapoda (six legged)
- Class: Insecta (insect, three body regions)
- Subclass: Pterygota (winged)
- Superorder: Paleoptera (ancient, non-pleated wings)
- Order: Ephemeroptera (mayfly)
- Suborder: Fucatergalia (fork-gilled)
- Infraorder: Pannota (fused back)
- Superfamily: Ephemerelloidae (crawler)
- Family: Ephemerellidae (spiny crawler)
- Genus & Species: *Ephemerella subvaria* (Hendrickson)



Jason Neuswanger Photo

## Life Stages

Being a mayfly, the Hendrickson has incomplete metamorphosis. This means it does not have a pupal life stage, only those of the egg, nymph, and adult. Mayflies



Jason Neuswanger Photo

are unique in having two winged life-stages- the sexually immature dun (subimago) and the sexually mature spinner (imago.)

## The Nymph

The Hendrickson nymph is found in a wide variety of streams and rivers. Classified as a crawler, it is not particularly adept at either swimming or clinging. When dislodged in swifter water it remains (more or less) motionless, drifting with the current until able to regain it's footing. This drift behavior can be exploited by allowing a nymphal imitation to dead-drift near the bottom with only an occasional twitch. When swimming, the thorax is flexed in an exaggerated up-and-down manner, using the abdomen somewhat as a fin.

As can be seen in the above photo, the Hendrickson nymphal body is quite robust, not streamlined like swimmer nymphs, nor flattened like clinger nymphs. The body is very dark in color- almost black, and is distinguished by paler abdominal segments 5, 6, and 7. The legs are somewhat feeble in appearance. Excluding tails, mature Hendrickson nymphs vary in length from 8 -12 mm. (1/3 - 1/2") with the female being somewhat larger than the male. It has three tails (cerci), with the middle tail being slightly longer than the outer two. Very fine hairs protrude from both sides of the tails.

Hendrickson nymphs are found in both slow and fast

water, but they display an aversion to areas subjected to temperature extremes. As a result, few are found in cold headwater streams or in warm slack-water stretches of rivers.

When preparing to emerge, the mature Hendrickson nymph migrates to slower current. It will then make several trips to the surface, employing the earlier discussed exaggerated wiggling motion, before finally escaping its nymphal shuck at, or just below, the water's surface.

## The Dun



The *Ephemerella subvaria* female dun is called a Dark Hendrickson; the male dun is called a Red Quill. Or, they may both be referred to as a Hendrickson. Independent of what they are called, their bodies are colored somewhat differently.



The dun body varies in color, both by sex, and across the broad area of distribution. It is usually some variety of brown, ranging from tan to reddish brown with lighter coloration ringing abdominal segment borders. The wing color is gray, ranging from light gray to slate gray.

When water temperatures reach the mid 40's, sporadic hatch activity will occur. However, water must reach the 50-55 degree range to trigger prolific hatches. This peak hatch activity normally starts sometime between mid-April and early May, lasting for 2-3 weeks. It is best to consult a hatch chart for the local area, which will provide more precise

timing.

Peak hatch activity normally lasts for several hours, starting in the early afternoon. In unusually hot weather the emergence may be delayed until the sun is off the water.

In cool weather, the dun can be tantalizingly available to trout as it floats a good distance downstream while drying its wings. With the arrival of warmer weather and more prolific hatches, trout will increasingly feed on the dun and, at times, with seemingly reckless abandon.

Hendrickson spinners have a body color that can vary from tannish-brown to reddish-brown to blackish-brown, with lighter abdominal segment banding.

The wings are hyaline (sort of cellophane-like) with obvious amber veins. When the veins are in close proximity, as near the leading edge of the forewing, and in its stigmatic area, that part of the wing appears amber-stained, at least when viewed without magnification.

## The Spinner

Male spinners gather to form a mating swarm and female spinners enter the swarm to select a mate. After mating, the female either jettisons her eggs a safe distance above the stream or dips to the water, using contact with the water to help release the egg sac.

A spinner "fall" begins several hours after the start of emergence, often while the hatch is still underway. When

An advertisement for Troutnut.com. At the top, the text "Judge a man" is written in a large, black, serif font. Below this, there is a photograph of a pile of fishing gear, including a blue and black fishing bag, a clear plastic container, and various fishing accessories. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text "by his investments." is written in a black, serif font, with "investments." in a larger, bold font. Below this, the website "TROUTNUT.COM" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



**Female Spinner**  
Jason Neuswanger  
Photo

this overlap occurs, it may be beneficial to switch to a spinner imitation while duns are still actively emerging.

In cool weather, the spinner fall occurs over a more extended period of time. In warm weather, the event is more concentrated and of much shorter duration. In this circumstance, a good strategy is to fish a dun imitation until trout lose interest in the emergence, quickly switching to a spent-wing spinner.

During a major spinner fall, trout will position themselves in natural feeding lanes at the tail end of riffles or runs. They can become quite selective to wing position at times, keying on spinners with either semi or fully spent wings.



**Male Spinner**  
Jason Neuswanger  
Photo

**Imitations**

Many fly fishers have their favorite imitations for the mayfly life stages, and are able to use them with some confidence. However, if that description does not apply to you, or if you would like to try something different, take a look at the following imitations.



**Nymph Imitation**

The Hendrickson in its nymphal stage is nicely suggested by this imitation tied by Jason Neuswanger. Pay particular attention to the robust body and contrasting dubbing colors, which suggest the lighter coloration of abdominal segments 5, 6, and 7.



**Nymph Imitation**  
Jason Neuswanger  
Photo

**Dun Imitation**

The extended body dun (below), by Ontario fly tier Christopher Law, nicely captures the wing and body of the natural, and can be found in the Fly Tying Forum's pattern database.

The adult mayfly imitations favored by the author are derivatives of the Comparadun popularized by Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi. They are easy to tie, don't require expensive materials, and may be used to imitate any mayfly by varying size of the hook and color of the materials used for the deer hair wing, dubbed body, and tails. Further, they float with the body in contact with the surface film, which can be an advantage in slow water, where trout have time to closely inspect one's offering.



**Dun Imitation**  
Christopher Law  
Photo

## Spinner Imitations

### Hendrickson Upwing Egg-laying Spinner

Roger Rohrbeck Photo



The above imitation tied by the author represents a female spinner attempting to release eggs by falling to the water with wings upright.

The poly-winged spinner, pictured below, tied by the author is a good choice when trout are keying on spent wing spinners. It is easily tied and effective.

### Hendrickson Spentwing Spinner

Roger Rohrbeck Photo



## Summary

Hopefully, this article has exposed you to some useful information you didn't already know or had simply forgotten. If so, maybe this knowledge can be applied to some advantage when you next fish the Hendrickson, or some other mayfly hatch.

If not, perhaps the article will (at least) remind you of the necessity to restock a depleted fly box; either at your vise or by visiting your favorite fly shop.

## About the Author and Photographer

Roger Rohrbeck is a fly-fishing, tying, and entomology enthusiast from the state of Washington. Following retirement from a 35-year career in Information Technology, Roger re-channeled his creative energy by developing FlyfishingEntomology.com

Jason Neuswanger generously authorized use of the insect macro-photographs included in this article. An avid fly fisherman, fly tier, and photographer from Wisconsin, Jason developed the highly acclaimed Troutnut.com.

## References

The following references contain useful information about the Hendrickson hatch and/or *Ephemerella subvaria*:

- Arbona, Fred L., Jr.: *Mayflies, The Angler and The Trout*. New York: Lyons & Burford, 1989
- Caucci, Al and Bob Nastasi: *Hatches II*. New York: Lyons & Burford, 1986
- Knopp, Malcolm and Robert Cormier: *Mayflies, An Angler's Study of Trout Waters Ephemeroptera*. Helena: Greycliff, 1997
- Leonard, Justin and Frannie: *Mayflies of Michigan Trout Streams*. Bloomfield Hills: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1962
- Swisher, Doug and Carl Richards: *Selective Trout*. New York: Lyons & Burford, 1971

In addition, although it includes only western mayflies (not the Hendrickson), the following reference is recommend to Western fly anglers:

- Hafele, Rick and Dave Hughes: *Western Mayfly Hatches, From the Rockies to the Pacific*. Portland: Amato, 2004





Glen Hales Photo

By Steve Clark

**F**ew things get a fly fisherman's blood pumping like Opening Day of Trout Season. A new season. A new beginning. A new (well, not 'new' - a recurring) reason to give up "X" hours of sleep in the very, very early morning. Opening Day is a day that we look forward to from the final moment of the prior year's season all winter long, and it's also what keeps many of us going on those long, cold, sub-zero winter nights just thinking about it.

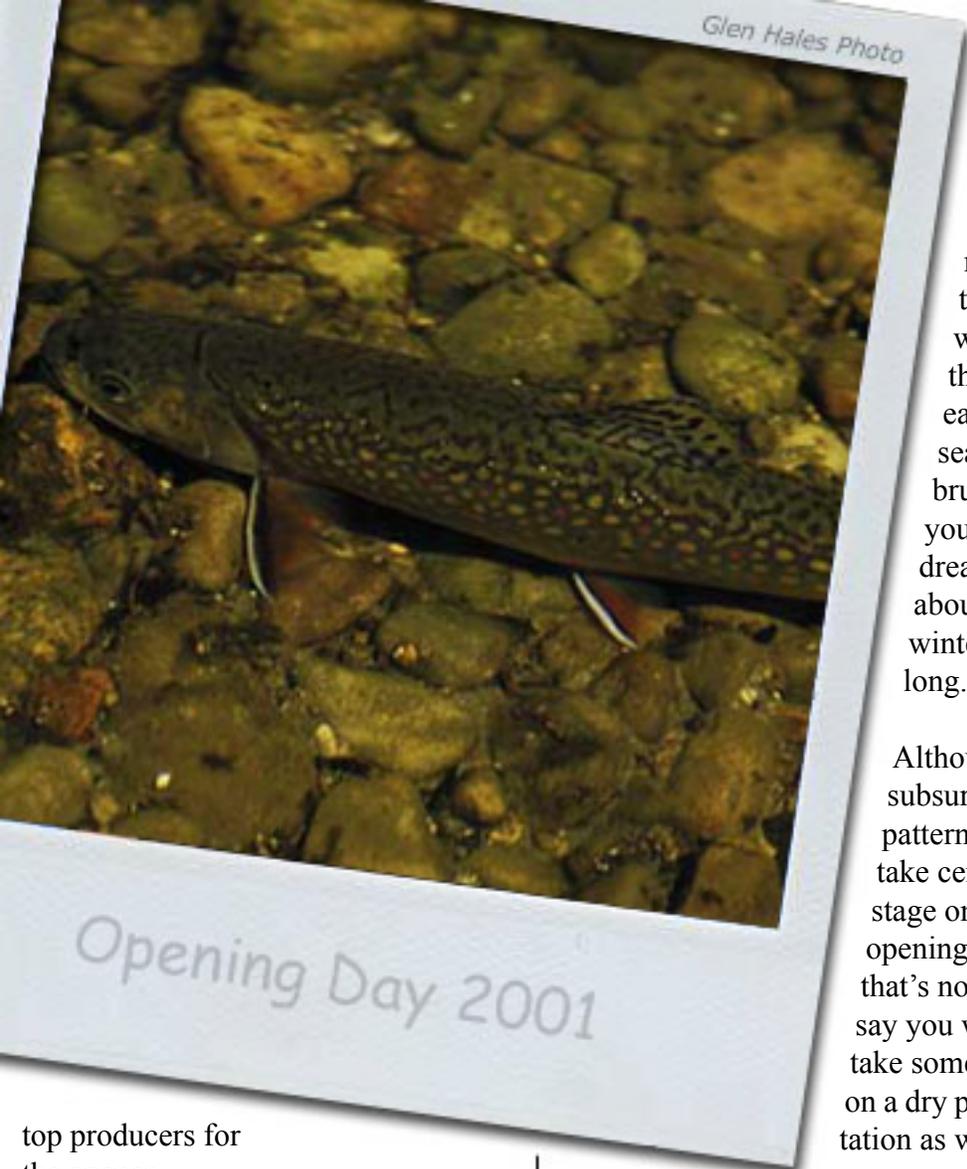
Recently a friend asked me if I was interested in going on a Smallmouth fishing trip with him during the last weekend in April. When I told him I had to decline his invitation due to the fact that it conflicted with opening day of trout season, he asked me what it was about Opening Day that was so special, because you could trout fish on the "no-kill" streams all winter long.

My reply to him was simple. Yes, it's true you can fish on the no-kill streams all winter long, but Opening Day is something I have not missed in a great number of years.

Opening Day is more than just a fishing trip - it's a tradition. It's about getting together with long time fishing buddies as we do each time, renewing friendships, catching up with each others' lives and celebrating the spirit of the sport we love. It's about pulling up the waders and stepping into the cozy confines of a small trout stream, rather than the brawling waters of a large river that the Winter Steelhead calls home. It's feeling the grace of a finely crafted 4 wt. trout rod in your hand as it accelerates a tiny dry fly forward toward a log jam, rather than the feel of a heavy 7 wt. Steelhead rod pushing out a nymph/shot/indicator rig toward a dark winter holding lie. In short, it's about what probably brought the majority of us to the sport of fly-fishing in the first place.

Tradition, and the feel of a fine rod in the hand, is always a pleasure to experience but, lets face it- we don't go out on Opening Day with just that in mind; we all want to catch fish after being trapped inside all winter long. With that said, I'm going to share some of the factors and tips that have made my last fifteen "opening-days" a bit more productive for me.

On an ideal Opening Day we could step into a stream and catch trout after trout on dry flies all day long; most times that's not the case with trout that are just coming out of a long sluggish winter. I have had reasonably decent dry fly action on opening day but it's usually dependent on the weather, which is anything but reliable early in the season. More often than not the most productive patterns for early season trout are going to be sub-surface flies; nymphs that are more of a general impressionistic pattern are the

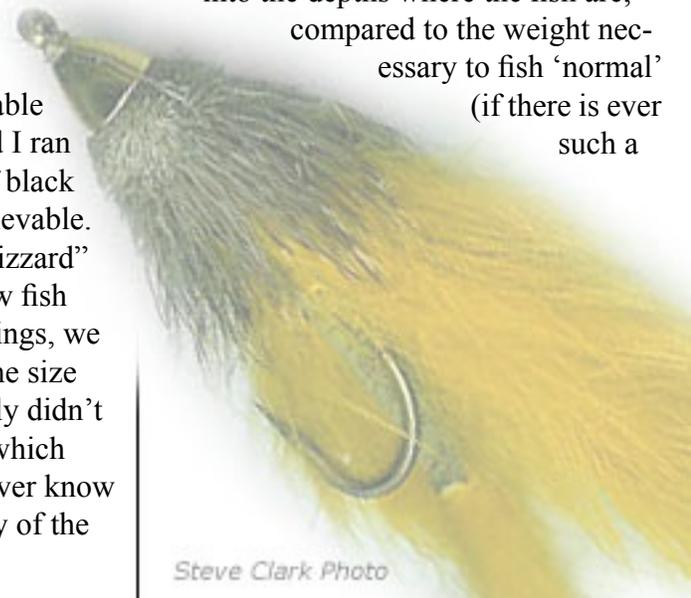


pass up a great opportunity to tangle with those early season bruisers you've dreamt about all winter long.

Although subsurface patterns will take center stage on opening day, that's not to say you won't take some fish on a dry presentation as well.

Finding trout in the early season is not as difficult as you may think. The major difference between finding trout in early spring compared to summer is simply looking for a slightly 'different' water. Trout in summer usually seek out shallower, faster moving riffles and runs that are more highly oxygenated. In the early season, since air temperatures are still somewhat cool, and downright cold at night, trout don't yet feel a need to search out those runs because the water still has a high oxygen content. Given that fact you will usually find trout hanging back a bit in the slower moving, deeper holes and runs. This is not to say you won't take a fish or two from a run you enjoy fishing during the summer, but simply that the most trout will come from more slack and slower water that has some depth to it. Structure also becomes a bit more critical to the early season angler. Given the fact that most opening days are less than ideal when it comes to water quality, with many streams running high and very fast, trout focus more on finding objects to disturb the current, thus giving them a chance to rest and recoup a little energy; so pay special attention to logs, fallen trees, rocks and other obstructions in the stream.

Another point to remember when fishing nymphs at this time of year is because of higher water levels it will take a bit more weight to get a fly down into the depths where the fish are, compared to the weight necessary to fish 'normal' (if there is ever such a



Steve Clark Photo

top producers for the opener.

The Hare's Ear Nymph, Pheasant Tail Nymph, Zug Bug and various caddis nymphs and pupa have been key producers for me early in the season. Fishing these nymphs with a minimal amount of shot, on a dead drift, has accounted for many opening day trout. Although nymphs will take the majority of early season trout, let's not forget about streamers. Streamers are at their most productive early in the season. Patterns such as Wool Head Sculpin, Zoo Cougar, Matuka, the Muddler Minnow and many classic feather-wing streamers with names like "Grey Ghost" and "Black Ghost" are all good bets for Opening Day. Some of the largest fish of the year are taken by fishermen using large streamers on opening day, so don't wait 'til Summer to load that streamer box in the back of your vest or you'll

There may be a few midges from winter that will still be coming off but, keep an eye out for other surface activity. Most likely it will still be somewhat early for Mayfly activity but Caddis hatches start much earlier than Mayflies, so you can put an Elk Hair Caddis to good use.

I remember an opener three years ago on the fabled Au Sable River when a good friend and I ran into a mid-afternoon hatch of black caddis that was simply unbelievable. This hatch became a pure "blizzard" and, although we landed a few fish on some elk hair caddis offerings, we were even more amazed by the size of the hatch itself. We honestly didn't expect to fish dries that day, which goes to show you that you never know what to expect on the first day of the season.

# Opening Day Trout Tactics...

## Dark Spruce



**Hook:** Streamer 3XL long, size 2 through 6.

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail:** Peacock sword fibers

**Body:** Red floss

**Thorax:** Peacock herl, palmered.

**Wing:** 2 Dark furnace feathers, tied so they splay away from each other.

**Hackle:** Webby black saddle hackle

This fly is tied the same way as a light spruce, except with dark badger hackle instead of light badger. Start the thread on the hook and tie in the peacock sword fibers as the tail. Tie in a 4" strand of red floss and wrap it forward, covering 1/2 of the hook shank. Tie in 2 to 4 peacock herl strands and wrap them almost to the eye of the hook. Next, tie in 2 dark badger hackles so they splay away from each other. Finish the fly by adding some webby hackle as a collar. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Tied by: FTF Member "Fish"

## Female Adams



**Hook:** Dry fly hook size 12-18.

**Thread:** Black 6/0 per-waxed.

**Tail:** Mixed grizzly and coachman brown barbules grizzly OR grizzly died yellow.

**Body:** Grey poly dubbing and a small bit of yellow poly dubbing at back of body.

**Wings:** Grizzly hackle tips.

**Hackle:** Grizzly and coachman brown mix.

Start the thread on the hook. Tie in the hackle barbules as the tail. Then tie on hackle tips for wings on the shank about 2/3 distance from the bend (1/3 from eye of hook). Tie them upright and separated. Dub small yellow section at base of hook shank as shown and then dub the rest of the body behind to wing with grey dubbing. Tie in the hackle, one grizzly and one coachman brown, behind the wing. Wrap hackle forward one at a time and tie off behind eye. Whip finish and cement.

Tied by: Robert Farrand "OSD"

thing!) summer water levels. Slow and deep is generally the key to a successful opening day.

Early season trout tactics aren't that much different from summer fishing; we just need to refine them a bit more to entice the sometimes sluggish, early fish. Make sure you have spent enough time tying nymphs over winter since nymphs will be the trout's main focus on Opening Day, remembering to include a decent assortment of streamers as well. Dries won't be a major player, but don't forget to carry along several basic search patterns like the Adams & Elk Hair Caddis in case you happen to see an early hatch. Armed with the aforementioned flies, a little split shot and some strike indicators, we can dub ourselves "ready" for Opening Day and be prepared to kick the season off right.

In closing, remember to fish those nymphs slow and deep, always keeping a watchful eye open for a rise that might signal an early caddis hatch, and you should be rewarded with a good opener. In many fly fishermen's opinions, including that of your humble servant-

ANY Opening Day spent above ground is a good one, so get out there and enjoy yourself!

Your rod...Your fly  
Your way

*J. Stockard*  
FLY FISHING

<http://www.jsflyfishing.com>

## Fly Tying Feature

Will Mullis'

# Bird Boat

Text & Photos: Will Mullis

Tom Nixon will always be remembered for his unique and innovative flies. One of his more famous patterns is the Pig Boat which incorporates more than fifty rubber strands making up the tail and collar of the fly. The Pig Boat has become a favorite amongst warm water anglers especially those perusing largemouth bass. It was this fly that was the inspiration for the Bird Boat.

The Bird Boat basically takes away all of the rubber strands of the Pig Boat and replaces them with ostrich herl. The result is a fly that gives a tremendous amount of pulsating movement in the water like the Pig Boat but is well suited for a variety of warm water and coldwater species.

### Materials you will need:

**Hook:** #4 Mustad 9674

**Tail:** Black Ostrich Herl

**Body:** UV Black Ice Dub

**Under Collar:** Black Ostrich Herl

**Over Collar:** White Mallard Flank

**Head:** UV Black Ice Dub

**Weight:** Medium Gold Cone head

**Step 1:** Slide the cone head onto the hook and place the hook securely in the vise.



**Step 2:** Cut a clump of ostrich herl for the tail. Tie in the herl so that it extends about a shank length behind the hook bend. Cover all the herl on the shank to secure it in place and then return the thread back to the spot where the tail was tied in.



**Step 3:** Create a dubbing loop with the ice dub and then advance the thread to the cone head. The amount of dubbing used to form the body all depends on the desired size and profile. One important element is to keep the dubbing fibers “buggy” by not winding the dubbing loop too tight.



**Step 4:** Palmer the dubbing loop up to the cone head. Tie off the loop and then trim any excess.



# The Bird Boat

**Step 5:** Forming the 360 degree collar is a four step process. Cut a few strands of ostrich herl so that they will extend back to the end of the tail and tie them in on top of the shank. Repeat this step three more times, turning the fly a quarter turn each time until the herl encompasses the top, bottom and both sides of the fly.

**Step 5a - Top**



**Step 5b - Side #1**



**Step 5c - Bottom**



**Step 5d - Side #2**



**Step 6:** Begin prepping the mallard flank by removing the fluff from the bottom half of the stem. The next step is to strip one side so that all the fibers will be swept back when tied in. It is important to strip the feather so that when it is tied in the fibers will be pointing back toward the tail. Make two or three wraps and then secure it with the thread and trim any excess.

**Step 6a**



**Step 6b**



**Step 8**



**Step 7:** To make the head of the fly simply create another dubbing loop and palmer the loop so that it secures the cone head in place.

**Step 7**



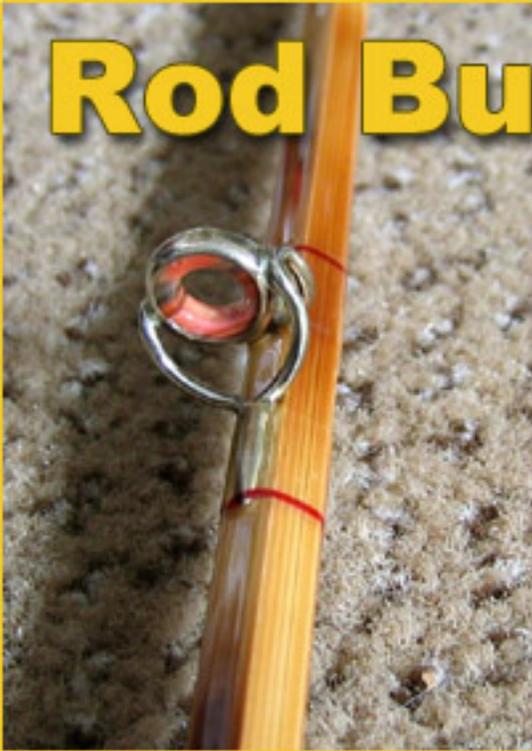
**Step 8:** Finish the fly off and that is how you tie the Bird Boat.

**Tying Notes:** Playing around with sizes color combinations can be a fun and rewarding experience. By altering the size and color, you can gear this pattern to almost any cold or warm water predator. Try an all white variation with bright red Ice dubbing at the collar, or a combination of olives, yellows and oranges for perch and sunfish imitations. The variations are only limited by your imagination.

# Rod Building Primer

## Part 1: Build vs. Buy

Text & Photos: Chris Carlin



*It all started with a tip-top.* At the time, I was in the market for a spinning rod I could use to chuck lead at Alaskan salmon. I stumbled across a high-end spinning rod in nearly mint condition at a nearby used sporting goods store. The price, far below what the rod was worth due to ‘damage’; the extent of the problem was there was no tip-top on the rod, just an unscathed bare tube of graphite where the top should have been.



Figuring I could get the rod repaired while still saving a considerable amount of money, I went ahead and purchased it. I took it to a local retailer who advertised rod repair to show them the problem. The guy behind the counter smiled and said that it would be no problem to fix, and it would only cost me \$5. I was elated!



The gentleman told me to grab a tip out of a specific bin, which I dutifully did. I handed it to him with the anticipation of watching him sit down at a bench, take out a pair of magnifiers, some shiny surgical tools and a fancy machine or two and, with gingerly but skillful hands, carefully operate on the rod.



Instead he picked up a glue gun from under the counter, globbed a bit at the end of the rod and jammed the tip home. “There you go,” he said. “You’ll probably want to scrape off the extra glue after it has cooled. You can pay at the counter.” That is all it took. My eyes had been opened. I was no longer in awe of the construction of the fishing rod; somewhat out of spite for the lackadaisical attitude of the clerk while performing the repair on my new

treasure, I decided to build a fly rod. I was careful when paying to not let the repairman see me with the rod-making book I had selected.

### Why you should run away from rod building?

As with anything, there are disadvantages to building your own fishing rod. Let’s start with those.

First, the “Warranty.” Some manufacturers offer no warranty at all on unfinished blanks, while others warranty blanks but extend better and more comprehensive warranties to their factory-built rods. The idea being, there are less uncontrollable variables when the manufacturer builds a rod in a supervised setting, greatly reducing the margin of error.

Some warranties are ‘unconditional’, while others will only be honored if a certain guide spacing formula is used, or wraps are placed in key areas for reinforcement. The bottom line is, if you are concerned with a warranty or are prone to “accidents”, make sure you educate yourself regarding all of your options. Every manufacturer deals with these things differently.

In the case of a warranty on an unfinished blank remember, that since you built the rod in the first place, the extent of the warranty will be, at best, limited to replacement of the damaged blank or section. Time, labor and materials to bring the replacement piece back to fishable condition will be up to you – the builder.



# Rod Building Primer Part 1

A second potential disadvantage is that you are unable to 'try before you buy'. It is easy enough with name brand blanks to try a factory-built equivalent at your local fishing store, which will show you what the custom-built rod will feel like, but that isn't always possible. It is unlikely that you'll be able to locate a finished rod made on an off-shore or closeout blank, so you either have to blindly take the leap of faith or learn what you can from discourse with those who sell them, and make an educated decision. I, personally, have never been burned with a completely unusable blank, but I certainly have liked some more than others.

Details, such as clear thread with fine red trim wraps, combined with a custom agate guide on a bamboo blank produce one of a kind results



A third drawback of building your own

rods – one that has always puzzled me a bit - is the fact that the resale value on even an extremely well built custom rod is almost always less than an equivalent name brand off-the-shelf rod. I have seen custom rods that should have commanded far more than their mass-built brethren sell for not much more than the cost of the blank. So- if you're considering making a few rods with purely investment in mind, start day trading instead.

The last major disadvantage is the 'Potato Chip Factor' – you won't be able to build just one. It scares me to even begin to count my rods anymore, so I quit doing it. At last count I was well over 20, but that was a while ago. A total of 2 of those rods are factory built; both of which I keep more for sentimental reasons than anything, one of which is the rod with the replaced tip that started me on this journey.

## Why bother building rods?

For starters, you can save quite a bit of money building your own rod. Not to say you'll always save money but, I have found that on average the total cost of building your own rod is roughly two-thirds of the cost of a comparably equipped factory-built. Most manufacturers sell both completed rods as well as unfinished blanks. Quickly checking the websites of a few large fly rod manufacturers you'll find that blanks sell for about half the price of a finished rod.

There are also companies who specialize in selling rod building supplies and equipment. From these, you can expect

## Detail your rod with custom guides



to find closeouts, blemished 'seconds' and "offshore" (made overseas) blanks at huge discounts over current, name brand models. Blanks of surprisingly good quality can be had for as little as \$20 USD! These dealers will also often have the latest, greatest name brand blanks to choose from. The savings sound significant until you remember that the blank is not the only thing you will need to build a rod.

For those fly fishers who are interested in making the transition to a bamboo rod, top quality, handmade blanks can be had for considerably less than a finished rod. The average cost for a cane blank from a reputable bamboo rod maker is probably around \$250-350. Compare this to a completed rod that will sell for \$750 and up, and the savings is clear. Pick up an impregnated, pre-ferruled bamboo blank and the building process is not much different from building on a graphite blank, except you'll have a bamboo heirloom to pass along to the next generation.

In my mind, the greatest advantage to making your own fishing rods is that you are able to choose the type, color, and style of the components for your rod. Do you like the newest "Brand X" rod, but don't like the grip style? No problem. Want the same rod but with red wraps and gold guides? It can be done.

# Rod Building Primer - Part 1

Grips in multitudes of different sizes and shapes are available: Long, short, skinny, fat, curvy, straight. Would you like an all 'wood' grip instead of cork? Sure. How about one with wood inserts or trim? Perhaps something as simple as foam or as elaborate as layers of birch bark or rattan? Imagination is the only limitation.

Reel seat hardware can be made of all kinds of metals – aluminum, titanium, nickel silver – with any of a thousand types of wood spacers or inserts – rosewood, cedar, koa, cherry, quilted maple, buckeye burl, ebony, amboyna, bocote,

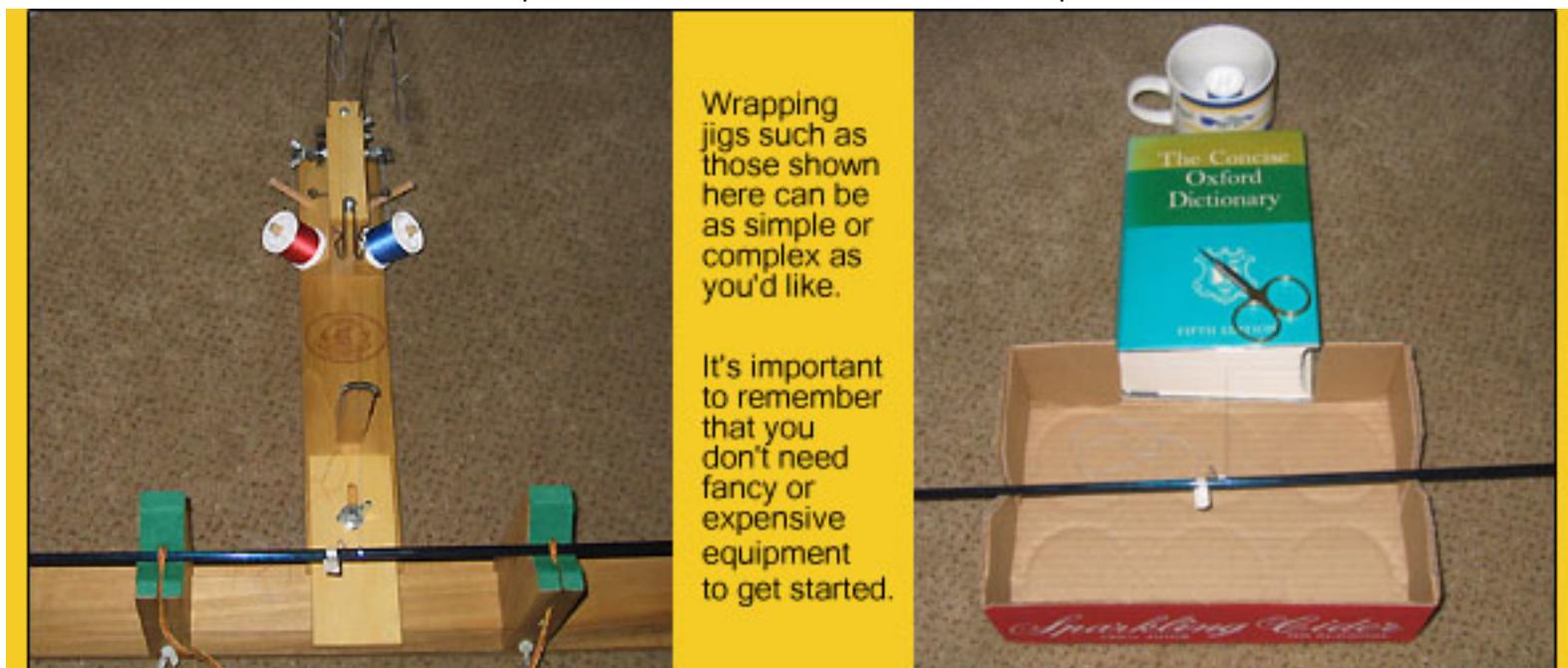
are the most common, though just about anything will work. I've even made temporary repairs to rods with dental floss!

You get the idea. Check out a few websites and order a few catalogs and you will soon learn just how many options you have for making the rod you've always wanted.

Then, of course, there are the less glamorous materials you'll need. Epoxies, brushes, mixing cups, sandpaper, a rod wrapper, all necessary to the construction of a rod but, you'll find that noth-

building can be at least as good as a factory built rod.

Try something for me. Go and grab your most expensive rod and take a very close look at the guide wraps. Notice the small imperfections in the size of the wraps, or the little "tag-ends" that are folded under them on each side? If there is a second color thread, look for inconsistencies where the different thread colors start and stop and their tag ends. Look at the bulges and humps in the epoxy finish and the alignment of the guides with each other and the reel seat. You probably won't see all of these



dyed woods, etc. Inserts are also available in deer antler, carbon composites, aluminum and just about any other material you can imagine.

Rod guides can be single or double foot. They can be simple bent wire or have inserts of elaborate holographic material, ceramic, or semi-precious stones such as jade or agate. They come in gold, silver, black, titanium-grey, blue and many other colors.

Any color thread from transparent clear to metallic pink can be used. There are even some available that are rainbow colored or striped. Silk, nylon, or rayon

ing is either expensive or difficult to procure.

All of these components together can add several tens of dollars to several hundreds of dollars to the cost of a custom rod. It all depends on what you want to do.

## Quality of a custom rod

So what kind of quality can you expect from your hand built rod as compared to a factory-built rod?

Ignoring the choice of components, even a first or second attempt at rod

discrepancies in every rod, but each will have some, and none will be flawless.

Remember that the folks who build these rods are just people whose job it is to spin thread onto tubes of graphite. Most work for, or near, minimum wage, and need to wrap rods as quickly as they are able, to keep their jobs.

You, on the other hand, have the option of spending hours working on one wrap if you choose, making each turn perfect and precisely aligning every guide.

This begs the question: How long can you expect it to take to build a rod? As

with most things- with practice will come speed. You may expect your first rod to take you, perhaps, 4-6 hours to build, not including drying/curing time. Your second rod will likely be half that. Experienced rod builders can put together a basic graphite rod in an hour or two at the most.

## Pride

In my opinion, the biggest advantage to rod building is simple – pride. Those of you who angle with flies you have tied know the feeling of watching a fish be tricked by a tiny bundle of feathers and fur you’ve put together. With rod building it is the same, but with a closer and longer lasting connection to your creation. The first time you take your rod out to the lawn to cast, that first time on the water and, of course, that first fish on your hand built rod will be rewarded with an ear-to-ear grin and the sense of creating something both functional and beautiful.

There are other advantages to starting a rod-building hobby. Besides having the option of selling a few custom rods to friends to make a few bucks (which invariably roll over into “another” rod), you’ll be able to make those pesky repairs you were once unequipped to handle. From recreating an entire rod section, or replacing a grip, to simply gluing a new top onto that rod you got for an especially good price because it had a missing tip.

**Be sure to keep an eye on forthcoming issues of Hatches Magazine where we’ll journey step-by-step through the process of creating a custom built fly rod, from selecting a blank to applying the final finish.**

## About the Author:

Chris Carlin is a rod maker located in Alaska. Chris has been building fishing rods for over 15 years, an obsession which recently evolved into the construction of bamboo fly rods.



## 3 Great Sites



# 1 Outstanding Community



## Basic Tools & Woolly Buggers

By: Robert Farrand (OSD)

### The Basic Tool set



### The Vise

One of the most important decisions a new fly tier will make is what kind of vise would they like to start tying on. There are many opinions about what the best vise is and I will not get into this subject because it has been over discussed on many forums. I feel that whichever vise you choose; cam style, rotary, or otherwise, make sure it holds the hook securely.

Even if you decide on an entry-level vise, then decide you want something better later on, it's always nice to have an extra vise around.

### A. Bobbin

You will need at least one, but two or three will come in much handier. Bobbins range in price from 8 USD to as much as 50 USD.

### B. Head Cement with Bodkin

Some may want to use varnish or nail polish, which is fine, but make sure to get a bodkin which can be made from a darning needle with some type of handle fixed to it.

### C. Hair Stacker

These can also be made, but I recommend buying a good size brass stacker with a heavy weighted bottom.

### D. Whip Finishing Tool

This is something that you may want to consider getting as your tying experience grows, but this also can be done without the tool if you learn to hand whip finish.

[http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/6392/anim\\_whip.html](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/6392/anim_whip.html)

### E & F. Hackle Pliers

These are the two styles I recommend- you can get either or both. This tool will help you palmer (wrap) materials on a whole variety of flies.

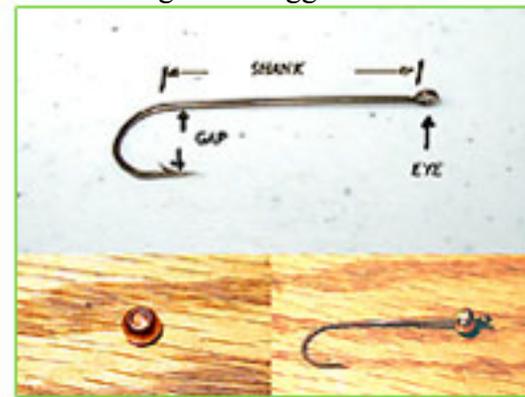
### G & F. Medium & Fine Scissors

For cutting coarse and fine fly tying materials.

One of the all-time favorite flies of many fly fishermen, often tied with a bead head or weighted body to obtain the desired depth under the surface of the water, is the Woolly Buzzer. This fly pattern can be used to represent baitfish, leeches, crayfish and even large nymphs. It has been fished in lakes and streams for a variety of species of fish around the globe, and most will agree it has a proven track record.

Woolly Buzzers are quick and easy to tie and should be a great place to start your learning process because many of the techniques learned with this fly can be used later on. By learning to tie this fly you should be able to master variations of the pattern such as The Egg Sucking Leech, The Woolly Worm, Steelhead Buzzers and large Saltwater Buzzers. The Woolly buzzer I have decided to tie for this demonstration is a large freshwater bead-head, which will show you the basic techniques for most all the variations of the pattern. Best of all, Woolly Buzzers are fun to tie!

I will be using a Mustad 9674, size 4. This hook is well suited for this type of woolly buzzer, but it is in no way the only hook that can be used for this application. The reason I chose this hook is because of the streamer style long shank (4X long shank) and straight large ring-eye which I personally prefer when I am using a bead to weight the buzzer.



The bead I am using is a 3/16" or 5mm. copper. These beads are commonly sold by most fly-tying suppliers and can even be found on EBay. In some cases the barb of the hook will need to be crushed to thread the bead onto the hook, just be careful not to impale yourself when trying to thread the bead onto the hook.

## Woolly Buzzer Pattern

**Hook:** Streamer style 4XL size 4 gap (ring eye).

**Head:** Copper bead 3/16" or 5mm.

**Thread:** Black 6/0 nylon.

**Tail:** Black marabou.

**Body:** Black chenille yarn.

**Hackle:** Grizzly (barred) black and brown saddle hackle.

Before we begin, let me say a few words about the materials that I will be using to tie this fly.

**Marabou** plumes are soft, very fluffy feathers that have a beautiful breathing action in the water. They cling together when pulled through the water and fluff out when stopped. I like using the plumes because they are stronger and hold up better than Marabou from the stems of the feather.



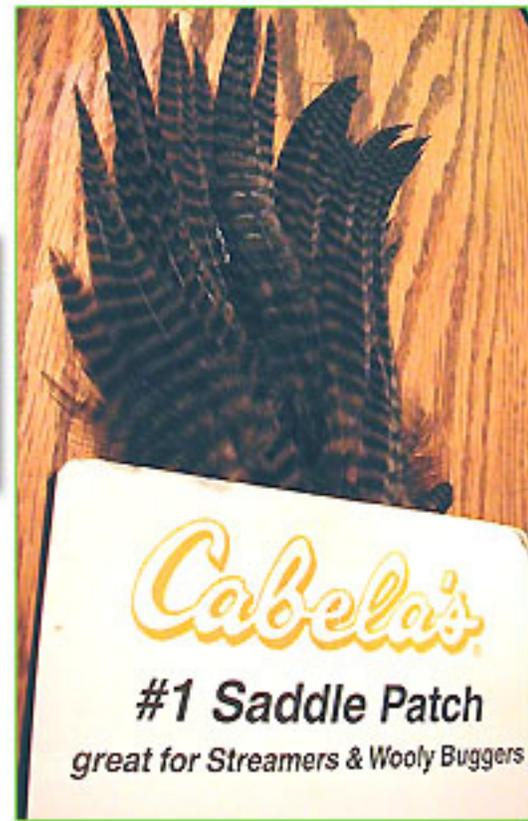
## Thread

Fly tying thread is a specialty product. Don't try to substitute with sewing thread. The investment in the right material for the job is worth it in this case. For this fly I will use a black general purpose fly tying thread in size 6/0.

**Chenille** is a fluffy yarn on a braided cord, which comes in an unimaginable array of colors and sizes. It is a very common material used on larger fly bodies, and can be found at fly tying supply stores and also knitting or craft supply stores.



**Saddle hackle** is a very long webby feather from the saddle (back) of a rooster chicken. This type hackle is very inexpensive; Saddle hackle used on this application should only cost around \$10 USD for a full saddle patch or you could buy less expensive strung saddle hackle packs; keep in mind not to buy saddle hackle meant for tying dry flies.



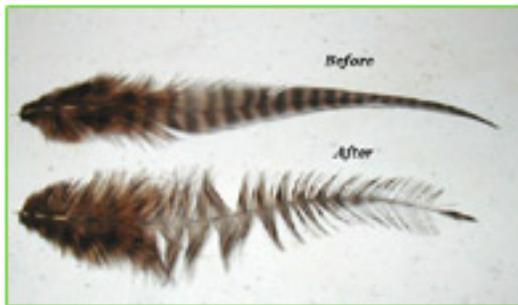
Once you have threaded the bead on the hook and secured the hook in the jaws of the vise, start the thread on the hook by wrapping the thread around the hook shank and then back over the thread itself to secure it. Practice this step a few times until you feel comfortable with the concept.



Continue wrapping the thread back toward bend of the hook. Just before the bend of the hook tie in the Marabou plume as shown in the picture. Secure it with as many wraps as needed.



Trim the Marabou plume on the shank side of the wrap that you just secured the plume with (As shown in the picture below.) Choose a hackle that is about 5 to 6 inches long, hold it by the tip of the feather and with your other hand gently pull the hackle fibers back.



Now you can tie in the tip of the hackle to the hook shank. You will also need to prepare the chenille to tie on the shank of the hook by pulling some of the fibers from the end of the strand of chenille to expose the thread core of the yarn; this thread core will be wrapped onto the shank also as shown. Wrap the thread back to the bead head after you have secured the materials.



Wrap the chenille forward around the hook shank to form a nice, evenly shaped body; tie it off using the thread just behind the bead head and trim. Be careful not to cut the thread.



Once you have completed the chenille body you can now wrap the hackle forward, trying to keep the wraps as evenly spaced apart as possible. This technique is called "palmering." Once you have reached the bead head, wrap the hackle once more around at the base of the bead head and tie off and trim excess hackle. You will need to secure the materials with a couple

Once you have completed the chenille body you can now wrap the hackle forward, trying to keep the wraps as evenly spaced apart as possible. This technique is called "palmering." Once you have reached the bead head, wrap the hackle once more around at the base of the bead head and tie off and trim excess hackle. You will need to secure the materials with a couple extra wraps and whip finish just behind the bead head by hand. Whip finishing is a form of finishing the fly. Online instructions for this step can be found at:

[http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/6392/anim\\_whip.html](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/6392/anim_whip.html)



Once you have finished tying the fly, it's always a good idea to cement the thread just behind the bead head. Head cement is available in just about every fly shop; however, a drop of clear nail polish will also work.



Be sure to check upcoming issues of *Hatches Magazine* for more fly tying how to's in our beginner's bench!

# The Jassid

By: David Fix



Photo by Ralf Maky

**Hook:** Fine wire Dry.

**Thread:** Choice of color; Tan, Brown, Olive; Most any thread will do nicely.

**Body:** Floss (color choice) or tying thread

**Hackle:** Again, choice to match thread. Use as small a hackle as possible to match hook size.

**Wing:** Jungle Cock Nail or Substitute; Starling, Guinea Fowl, et cetera, sized accordingly. Some of the nicest Jassids are tied with the tiny nail-dots located at the top of a Jungle Fowl cape.



Vince Marinaro, author of *A Modern Dry Fly Code* and *In the Ring of the Rise*, introduced the Jassid in 1950, in *Modern Dry*. *Modern Dry* was received with mixed reviews, acceptance and emotions due to Marinaro's concentration of interest and effort on small terrestrial patterns as opposed to larger and more easily recognized and readily accepted imitations of such things as Mayflies. *Modern Dry* has been reprinted several times since its debut and is a "must have" for anyone who both appreciates and enjoys including a bit of tying history into their own freshwater pursuits. Most of us do that with little nod to history anyway.

The Jassid will produce in early and late season attempts to entice finicky fish. It is easy to tie; it may be tied from Size 14 down to Size 28, or however far down the scale your eyes will allow you to try to tie it; you may use more readily obtainable materials than those in the original pattern and once you've seen it in action you'll wonder why you never had (or in my case why I didn't continue to have) any with you in those frustrating "@#\$%^\*(&^%\$# - nothing's working!" moments.

I was prompted to put this piece together by my friend Charlie Dickson's recent comments and observations of how seldom this pattern is seen to be used, tied, or mentioned in print or conversation. I agree- I looked over every fly I have in several boxes of trout flies after Charlie's comments; don't have one Jassid to tie on in a pinch where this pattern was a staple in my supply cache for twenty-odd years.

Methinks it will be again this season, and in those to follow.

## ***Tying Sequence:***

Apply Thread; tie in Floss or wind thread to create body. Tie in hackle at bend. Wind floss or thread body forward to within one eye-width of hook eye. Trim floss and tie off. If thread, single half-hitch and let bobbin hang. Wind (palmer) hackle forward, making sure to make one complete turn at the bend before proceeding to tie-in point. Tie off hackle and trim excess. Clip top and bottom of profile flat, flush to or as close to body as possible. Tie in Jungle Fowl nail, Starling or Guinea Fowl wing. Complete head.

To treat a Starling or Guinea Fowl feather to use as a wing, you may take a bit of head cement and apply top and bottom, gently working it in to the feather, stroking lengthwise several times to form the long thin wing shape necessary to mimic a Jungle Fowl nail. Let dry and apply to body.

***Enjoy building and fishing this pattern.***

# Fly Fishing & Tying Product Reviews



Nymph Buoys are aerodynamic in design and will not shift along the line during regular casting. The fully adjustable, non slip collar allows the angler to adjust depth settings in an instant thus ensuring the flies remain permanently in the correct feeding zone rather than passing over the Trout's head. Some of the best Buoys on the market today feature a short length of rubber tubing passed thru an elliptically shaped section of polystyrene. Whilst these are reasonable designs they are far from perfect in terms of design. They create excessive levels of drag which can devastate fluent casting styles and quite often, they can be lost during casting.

A recent European "best sight Indicator study" noted that many of the large Polystyrene indicators marketed today, offer high levels of resistance to a taking Trout causing a percentage of fish to reject the Nymph prematurely! Nymph Buoys have been on and off my drawing board for over 5 years and were designed thru necessity. From my own surveys; most fly Anglers have at some point used a number of sight indicators and found faults with each of them. The general consensus of opinion was; the perfect sight indicator should have: (#1): Good aerodynamics and offer minimal air resistance, (#2): Should fasten securely to the line and yet (#3): Should allow full adjustment of depth settings to suit changes in River conditions. A tall order?...maybe, but after 3 years of meticulous field testing and at least 18 modifications prior to the final 'Patented design' .....we think we may have a sight indicator that meets the requirements of most Nymph fishers.

## What are Nymph Buoys?

'Nymph Buoys' are extremely durable, fully adjustable sight indicators. There are 3 indicators per pack and each packet contains one of each colour: "Ultra-Pink", "Hot-Orange" and "Bright-Green". These colours will suit most fly fishing situations; from those bright summer days to dull autumn evenings. This product has been designed by Fly Anglers for Fly Anglers and as a result, they are packaged in the size most suited to a team of heavier nymphs, this allows you to trim the Buoy's length to suit your own local river conditions.

'Nymph Buoys' are designed to float in the surface film and can detect even the most delicate take by a Trout however, try applying regular floatant such as 'Mucilin' or 'Gink' directly to the buoys before each River 'Nymphing' session in order to keep them "high and dry all day".

Once a 'Buoy' is threaded onto the line, no part can be dropped or lost whilst adjusting depth settings. A tough, low diameter loop link connects to a miniature locking compression wedge and sliding collar which effectively locks onto the line. These can be unlocked in an instant and allow you to adjust the depth in which you fish your Nymphs. The buoy is constructed from a special lightweight Yarn and trimmed to a bullet shape which helps to make this product the most aerodynamic sight indicator on the market today.

Nymph Buoys cost \$11.50 (USD) per packet

**Web: [www.paulwhillock.com](http://www.paulwhillock.com)**

**Email: [Masterclass.flies@btopenworld.com](mailto:Masterclass.flies@btopenworld.com)**

- Paul Whillock

# Fly Fishing & Tying Product Reviews

## AquaGlo™ Dressing



From the company which brought us Monic fly lines, Flow Tek Inc out of Boulder, CO, comes this exciting new product.

There is a trend in nymphs and streamer fly construction to use a variety of reflective materials. This is effective on flies as long as there is sufficient sunlight. Often depths, stream clarity, shadows and overcast conditions minimize the impact of reflection. Flies incorporated with AquaGlo dressing glow regardless of light conditions. AquaGlo dressing's clear lip-balm like container is convenient and easy to use. Attached to a fishing hat or vest, AquaGlo dressing is rapidly activated by sunlight. A twenty-minute exposure produces hours of glow. In darkness or low light situations, just a one-minute exposure to a flashlight allows flies to glow for up to an hour. Easily applied, non-toxic and water resistant, AquaGlo dressing is an exciting new product for the resourceful angler. Try with favorite patterns or lures!

For mor information about AquaGlo please visit the official Monic website at: [www.monick.com](http://www.monick.com)



### Cliff's Bugger Barn Fly Box

Each year new fly boxes hit the market laying their claim to be the latest and greatest, and being the gear junkies that we are, we are suckered in by the hype and end up with a box that is no better than what we already have. Every once in awhile we stumble across a box that fills the void in our life and for me that box is Cliff's Bugger Barn. This box will not win any fashion awards with blue foam inserts wrapped in a clear plastic shell wearing a big ugly sticker, but what it lacks in form it certainly makes up for in function. The Bugger Barn is specifically designed for one purpose; to hold a massive amount of streamers. At over 8 inches long and 3 inches wide it will easily hold over 60 4XL size 4 streamers while being deep enough to hold big deer hair bass bugs without crushing them. Another great quality is the slits in the foam so that you can use these boxes for years without needing to replace the inserts. So if you find yourself trying to pack your streamers into small fly boxes consider buying a Cliff's Bugger Barn,

and at only \$20, you may want to buy two!

For more information please see your favorite Hareline dealer or visit:

[www.hareline.com](http://www.hareline.com)

- Will Mullis

### Send Us Your Review

Interested in reviewing a fly fishing or tying related product for Hatches Magazine?

Write to us at [editor@hatchesmagazine.com](mailto:editor@hatchesmagazine.com) and find out how!



# Tailwaters

This solitary, annual trip is always a little different. Rain; cold; overcast; sometimes trudging through a not-quite-melting snow- sometimes hot enough to make it a chore to march to the stream. How can it be a chore at all? he thinks, when watching his tiny offerings being sipped from the surface film brings him such enjoyment. He's made this trip every year since he was a boy, except for when he was stationed overseas; first with his Grandfather and two of Gramps' cronies, then with Gramps alone and now, he, by himself. The half-day hike up a series of long draws to the ridge-top and down the other side to an old abandoned beaver dam used to be easy, though he could never understand why Gramps and the other two always wanted to 'take it easy'- maybe because they never cut a trail; maybe not. Each year it gets tougher- bushwhacking not as adventurous as it used to be- so much for youthful exuberance.

Maybe it's because he does it alone.

The dam suffers more every year with ice, snow melt and runoff pushing and distorting it; he wonders if it will withstand much more punishment- he wonders if he'll introduce anyone else to this long-secreted place before it disappears. The beaver were trapped out long ago, as he's seen snowshoe tracks crossing or shadowing his own and disturbed wildlife runs during winter; as he aged he slowly realized that this place was never "secret." Yet, while making his way over this year's heavy snow cover to find his first trout of the season, he doesn't mind falling back on his innocent youthful beliefs.

This winter was harder than any in the past few years. Deep snow cover came on early, pushing deer to den up anywhere possible, scratching out every morsel available, competing for every nut and acorn. Last fall's mast crop was sparse, so he knows he'll find evidence of it soon; bones scavenged bare by wolves. Coyotes will have had to fend for themselves.

Ice. So much ice! The tailout of the pool- or dam breach, to be more precise, only showed ten or so feet back from the spillway, by twenty, side to side. The shoreline captured the ice in a foot-wide ring of open water, a long way from melting. Oddly, this is just about when the "Old Man" took Gramps in to his hips one year; Gramps, not watching his nymph settle into the water, almost lost his favorite piece of cane under the ice when the Old Man inhaled the offering and ran for cover. Gramps, lucky he only suffered a busted line instead of a busted rod, or worse, never tussled with the Old Man again. As sure as "fishing" and "luck" are oxymoronic- neither had he. Ever. Surely the Old Man had passed on long before now.

Snowshoes off, pack in the crook of the tree, rod quickly rigged, he looks to the melted edge for early signs of life. Gently laying his nymph down on the long edge of the melting tailout, letting it sink, again and again, he waits; no takers. Thinking out loud "...Sun hasn't been above the trees long; I should give it an hour" he starts to quickly reel in, the line quivering across the water. Bang! A small, maybe ten-inch Brown stops the nymph dead and turns away. Stripping the little line he has out brings the eager fish to hand; just as quickly, it is released. This happens several times over the next hour; small fish take a rapidly moving offering and are as quickly let go. Not a bad morning, all things considered.

# Tailwaters

Lunch is a lazy-man's effort as the sun climbs higher, just enough to fill the void. With about two hours left to fish he scouts any sign of sub-surface activity on the pool's edge. Tiny, black/olive wrigglers, no more than a half-inch long are churning the mud and decayed leaves on the sunlit shore, hungry trout attacking, darting out and back again under the ice. He picks a small olive-colored, copper wound offering, laying it down on the dam edge of the melting tailout, twitching slowly as he makes his retrieve. Once- twice- and again, no luck.

Every fisherman on the planet chants "one more cast" so often it has spoiled birthdays, board meetings, church attendance and (THE!) most egregious ((violation(s))) of all, wedding anniversaries. Shame.

Sometimes, one more cast means less light on the long hike back to the truck. As the nymph landed a little off target this particular "last" time, it was swept into the rushing water toward the outflow. As he quickly tried to regain control of his blown presentation, a shadow shot from the opposite side of the flow, and just as quickly turned back.

His leader followed the fish.

For the next few minutes they battled. Rod, straining against a determined adversary, leader zipping back and forth across the open pool, the fish trying desperately to break free. This can't be the same fish as those many years ago, he thought to himself. This fish had strength to spare, and he wondered how long his puny tippet would hold together or whether the hook would straighten or a knot would give out or a sunken tree branch would end his afternoon-

The fish stopped surging, turned, ran back at him and just as quickly turned again and ran for the opposite bank. Make or break – this leader couldn't take much more with that silly tippet on there. He crossed the slough, trying to feel his feet onto the jam that was the dam without being tossed off the drop. They were both tiring of this; something had to give. He crossed and tried leading this now aggravating brute to the edge of the pool- nothing doing. In the fishes' mind, he must have thought the same thing. Rocketing to the center, shooting from the water, shaking its head, shoulders, tail while upending himself he finally succeeded- Nymph, knot, leader – all in one piece- he'd thrown all of it with a shake on the downturn.

Rod broken down and cased. Gear on for the long walk out. Sun on the lower half of afternoon. This battle fought to a draw.

Until next time-

*Thanks, Old Man*