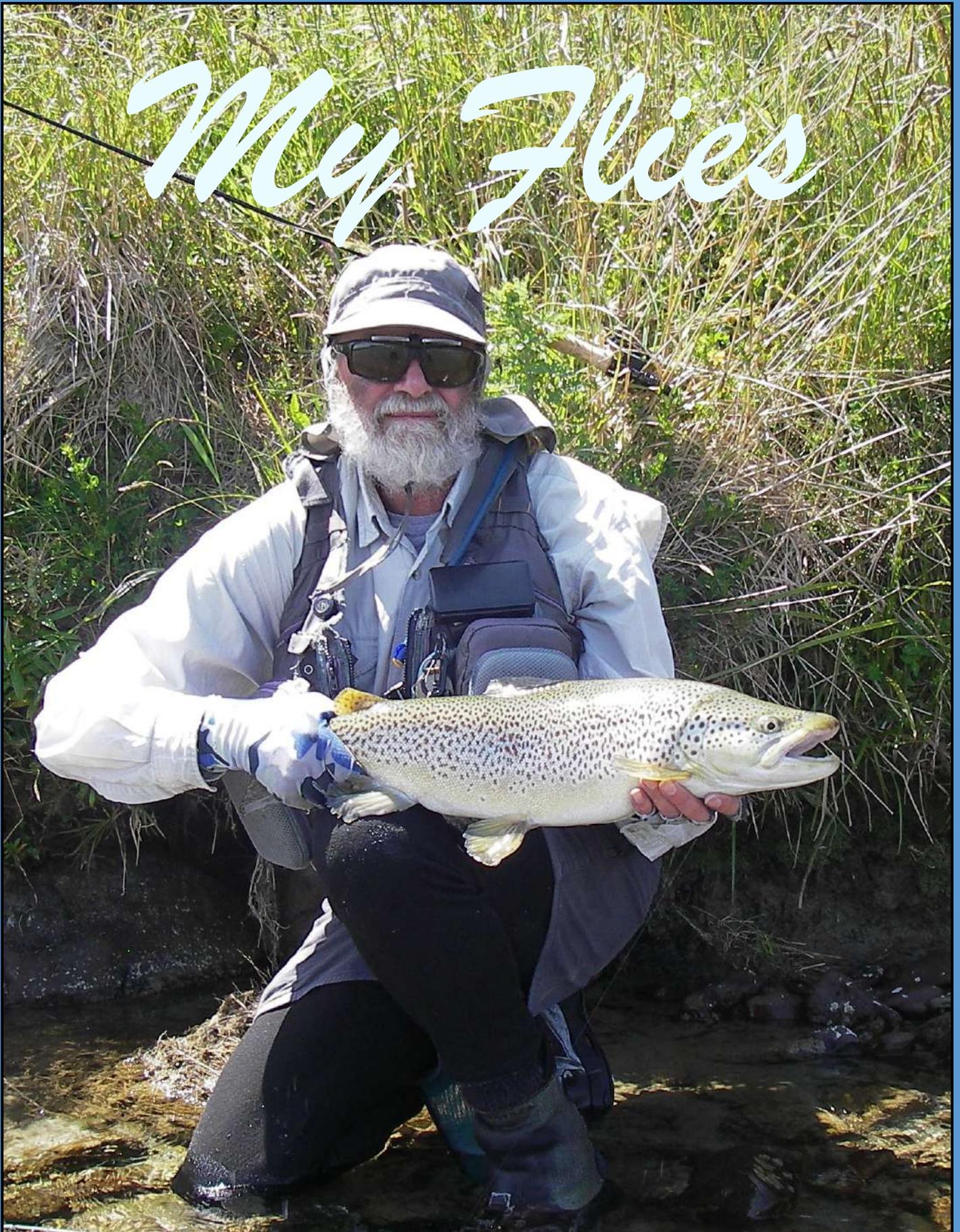


My Flies



Dave Harris

Introduction

For me fly tying is a major part of fly fishing.

I am an engineer and I have always made things for my hobbies. It is always good to use something that you made yourself especially if it is as good or better than what you can buy easily. In this manner I also make my own rods (from New Zealand made blanks) as well as tying all of my own flies.

These are some of the flies that I fish with in Southland. They are all flies that I tie myself. Some are other people's patterns, some are variations on other people's patterns and some are my own pattern.

Most of these flies I have had success with but at least one has not even been near the water at the time of preparing this.

As always happens, these flies may have evolved over the years and are slightly different to how I first tied them. Evolution can be different hooks, different materials (especially when the original materials are no longer available) and the substitution of leadfree wire instead of the lead wire used in nymphs. Do not be afraid to substitute materials for something similar if you don't have what is listed. The same goes for hooks, I generally use Black Magic hooks as that is what other members of the Southland Fly Fishing Club were using when I was learning to tie. I also understand their naming system. However sometimes they don't have what I want so I use other brands if I need to.

Some of these flies I use most of the time, some I use occasionally and there are some that I haven't used for some time. I haven't used the black beetle (it is a new pattern for me) and I haven't caught a fish on a Dave's damsel but I know of others who have used it with success.

Many of these flies were competition flies for the Southland Fly Fishing Club Fly Tying Competition and as such have been published in the Club's Ripples Newsletter. The pattern in this publication may have evolved from that published in the Ripples for any of the reasons mentioned above.

The flies are presented in alphabetical order so where they appear has no relevance to how often I use them, how good they are and in which of Southland's lakes and rivers I use them.

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Front Cover A nice brown taken on a green stonefly nymph

May 2020

Aero Dry Emerger

With the long summer nights it is a good time to get out to the Mataura in the evening after work when there will be some good rises. If you can it is even better to get out for the afternoon rise but for many of us work prevents this.

Regardless of the time if there are mayflies coming off there could well be trout taking emergers. At times this is all they will take.

My favourite emerger is an Aero Dry emerger. It is also very easy to tie.

I like the look of a curved hook but this fly will work with a straight hook as well.

This fly is fished dead drift like a normal dry fly.

This is a variation on a CDC emerger with the CDC replaced by the aero dry wing and is much longer lasting than the CDC.

Materials

- Hook: Black Magic F16
- Thread: Uni-thread 8/0 gray
- Wings: Tiemco aero dry wing - black
- Dubbing: Adams gray superfine dubbing

Tying.

1. Bind the thread back half way around the bend.
2. Bring the thread back forward to about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way along the hook and tie two strands of aero dry wing on top of the hook.
3. Build up a little thread in front of and behind the aero dry wing and make a couple of turns of thread around the wing to make it form a single wing. Trim the wing to length.
4. Run the thread back to the bend and dub body with adams gray superfine dubbing. You want a couple of turns of dubbing in front of the wing.
5. Form head and whip finish.



Black Beetle



This is a new fly for me. I tied the first of them during the covid-19 lock down after receiving a request from my Canadian mate Cole. He asked for a black beetle like my brown beetle but with a white post “so I can see it”, so that is almost what I tied.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic E12
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Abdomen:	Peacock herl
Wing:	Black 2mm foam
Post:	White poly yarn
Hackle:	Black saddle hackle.

Tying:

1. Run the thread to the bend of the hook and then back two thirds of the way to the eye. Put a small amount of tying cement on the thread and tie a 5mm wide strip of the foam over the thread and out the back of the hook. Tie down tightly.
2. Tie in two strands of peacock herl and wind forward to cover the tied down foam.
3. Pull the foam back over the peacock herl and tie off. Trim the foam so it sticks out just past the eye of the hook and wind a few turns under the loose piece of foam to lift it off the eye.
4. Tie in the poly yarn where the foam is tied down and run the thread up the poly yarn to form a post. Trim to length.
5. Tie the hackle on to the post sticking straight up.
6. Wind three or four turns of the hackle down the post and tie off.
7. Whip finish around the post under the hackle and trim thread and hackle.
8. Finally put a drop of fly tying cement on the whip finish.

Black Blowfly

In the past I have only had blue bottle type blowflies and decided I needed a black blowfly. I have been told there are more blowflies around now with the spread of dairy farming and that the trout were taking them in farming areas.

I tried several different ties before I found one that I liked. Initially I was using an E12 hook but found this was just too short once I decided to add the white wings. I was looking for a shiny black body and tried a couple of things before settling on ultimate dub which is not actually very shiny. I don't generally like synthetic dubbings but it is black and should not get water logged. The white wings are so you can see the fly easier on the water. The trout on the Oreti like it.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic B12
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 Black
Tail:	Black dyed moose body hair
Body:	Black 2mm foam
Abdomen:	Black ultimate dub
Wings:	White poly yarn
Hackle:	Black saddle

Tying:

1. Run the thread to the bend of the hook and tie in the tail. There should be about 8 – 10 moose hairs in the tail.
2. Cut a strip of foam about 5mm wide. Tie in the foam starting about 1/3 of the way down the hook. Tie in tight and go to the bend.
3. Use the dubbing to build up the abdomen. Don't go too close to the eye as you have to fit the hackle and head in front of the hackle.
4. Tie the foam body over the top. Trim allowing for a short head. You may need to put a few turns of thread under the head to get it to sit up a bit.
5. Tie in the poly yarn wings with a figure of eight on top of where the foam is tied down. Trim to length.
6. Tie in the hackle and wind on three turns, two behind the wings and one in front. Tie off hackle.
7. Finally whip finish under the head (immediately behind the eye).



Brown Beetle



This fly was introduced to the Southland Fly Fishing Club by Tuturau fishing guide David Murray-Orr at one of the Club's Fly Tying Days. Unfortunately, he uses foam that he gets from one of his clients in Japan and he was unable to suggest a source. This is round brown foam about 5mm in diameter and eventually I tracked down some brown daddy bodies in England. I have plenty of these but I can't find the source at the present time. A strip of 2mm brown foam about 5mm wide should be a reasonable substitute. David told us he uses this fly on the Mataura from mid-November on.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic E12
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 brown
Abdomen:	Peacock herl
Wing:	Brown 5mm daddy body
Post:	Orange poly yarn
Hackle:	Brown cock hackle.

Tying:

1. Run the thread to the bend of the hook and then back two thirds of the way to the eye. Put a small amount of tying cement on the thread and tie daddy body over the thread and out the back of the hook. Tie down tightly.
2. Tie in two strands of peacock herl and wind forward to cover the tied down foam.
3. Pull the daddy body back over the peacock herl and tie off. Trim the daddy body so it sticks out just past the eye of the hook and wind a few turns under the front of the daddy body to lift it off the eye.
4. Tie in the poly yarn where the daddy body is tied down and run the thread up the poly yarn to form a post. Trim to length.
5. Tie the hackle on to the post sticking straight up.
6. Wind three or four turns of the hackle down the post and tie off.
7. Whip finish around the post under the hackle and trim thread and hackle.
8. Finally put a drop of fly tying cement on the whip finish.

Damselfly Nymph



This damselfly nymph is tied (almost) to Mike Weddell's pattern. Mike uses a different hook but I think it is very similar and he uses different dubbing but it is still olive. I have used what I had available.

This fly should be used in lakes by casting out over the weed beds and working in jerks back to the shore. Do use strong tippet as the takes can be savage.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic B10 or Kamasan B830 #10
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 Dark Brown
Tail:	Olive marabou
Ribbing:	Fine copper wire
Abdomen:	Olive Awesome Possum dubbing
Thorax:	Olive Awesome Possum dubbing
Wing:	Olive marabou

Tying:

1. Run thread to bend of hook and tie in tail.
2. Tear tail to length (it looks better than cutting).
3. Tie in copper wire.
4. Dub abdomen.
5. Dub thorax (a bit bigger diameter than abdomen).
6. Wind copper wire forward over both abdomen and thorax.
7. Tie in wing at front only.
8. Tear wing to length.
9. Build up head and whip finish.

Dave's Damsel Dry Fly.

We were discussing the flies for the Southland Fly Fishing Club's Fly Tying Competition one year when Ian Mickelson tossed a red damsel fly down on the table and suggested we tie it as one of the competition flies. He assured us that it is irresistible to trout when there are damsels around. Unfortunately, he was unable to tell us anything about what it was made of. I had a good look at the fly and clearly the wings were krystal flash and the body was made with CDC with red foam over the top. The body was red metallic braided string but the problem was where to get this. I



I checked out Spotlight but they didn't have any braided metallic string, only spun string and this would unravel immediately if used with one end free. I finally found some on the web and purchased 100m from China. That will make a hell of a lot of damsel flies, so don't buy any. If you want some, contact me.

The name was given to this fly by an angler from the Maniototo (where there are a lot of still waters) who now uses it a lot after I sent him some flies and some of the red string to tie more.

Materials

Hook:	#14 short straight or grub (I have used Black Magic E14, F14 & G14)
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 red
Abdomen:	1mm red metallic braid
Wings:	Krystal flash – rainbow sparkle
Dubbing:	CDC
Legs:	CDC
Wing case:	0.5mm red foam

Tying:

1. Run the thread about 6mm down the hook from the eye. This short run is why you can use any hook as there is nothing tied beyond this.
2. Tie in the red braid abdomen letting it curve up from the hook. It should be about 25 to 30 mm beyond the end of the binding.
3. Tie in two lengths of krystal flash on each side of the braid to form the wings. These should be the same length as the braid.
4. Tie in a strip of red foam about 3mm wide and then a CDC feather suitable to wind palmer hackle style along the body.
5. Dub the body with CDC.
6. Wind the CDC feather forward palmer hackle style.
7. Pull the red foam over the top and tie off behind the eye and whip finish.
8. Trim the off the CDC that is sticking down and trim the bits sticking out the sides to form the legs.

Fairlight Caddis

A couple of seasons ago Chris and I headed to the top of the Mataura on opening weekend. Chris fished the first pool but could not get the fish to take. I spotted one in the fast water just above and soon had it in the net. It was to be my only fish for the day while Chris landed three. I could not get the fish to take my fly and two of them went across to the other side of the river where Chris caught them. I enjoyed the trip however and made a couple more trips up there on my own, fishing different bits of



water each time. The outcome was the same each time, one fish early and then no more for the day. I had a look under a couple of stones and found a caddis that was a greeny cream sort of colour. By the next trip I had tied two flies to my new pattern. The first fly was taken keenly, so keenly the third fish kept it. The next fish decided to keep the second fly so I had no caddis left and caught no more fish. I have since used the fly as far down as Garston and caught fish with it.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic G14
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 olive
Bead:	3mm black tungsten
Tail:	Brown hens feather
Rib:	Olive copper wire (brassie size)
Dubbing:	Superfine blue dun dubbing
Collar:	Peacock herl

Tying

1. Put the bead on the hook and put in vice.
2. Run the thread down the hook and part way around bend
3. Tie in and trim tails (4 bits of feather)
4. Tie in olive wire
5. Dub on dubbing, stopping 2 mm before bead
6. Wrap on wire ribbing and tie off
7. Tie in one piece of peacock herl wrap three times and tie off.
8. Whip finish.

Green Stonefly Nymph



This is a nymph I started tying a few years ago. At the time I was looking at ways to get my nymphs to sink faster and decided to try vinyl rib bodies as I felt they would have less resistance in the water than dubbed bodies. Don't ask about the effects of the goose biots on the sink rate. As I usually do, I tied three of these nymphs during the winter and put them in my flybox.

I was fishing the Upukerora River early the next season and decided to try this nymph. The first one disappeared into the vegetation behind me but the fish seemed to take a liking to the second one. One really liked it and kept it. I was fishing a side stream and could see three fish along the stream. I hooked the furthest downstream fish and tried to stop it going up and spooking the other two. Bad move, no fish, no fly and the other fish spooked anyway! I tied on my last green stonefly and used it for the rest of a very successful day. That night I tied some more and have made sure I have plenty since.

The next significant success that comes to mind was on an opening day while fishing the Oreti above Lumsden. Fish were hard to find but some fish came to the net, all caught on this green stonefly pattern including one caught by my novice companion.

The following season we were fishing the Whitestone together and he was catching all the fish. I finally asked him what he was using and he replied he was using my green stonefly. I changed and started catching fish as well.

This is a good early season fly in clean water where you would find the real thing.

The pattern has evolved slightly over the years, different slightly longer hooks, lead free wire instead of lead and the possum dubbing is new because it is about the only thing I could find without sparkly stuff in it. Original dubbing was olive squirrel and then olive natural fur dubbing.

Materials:

Hook:	Kamasan B800 #12
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Tail:	Olive goose biots
Abdomen:	Medium olive vinyl rib
Legs:	Olive goose biots
Thorax:	Olive awesome possum
Weight:	.015 lead free wire

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Tying:

1. Wind the thread down the hook and run back about 2/3 way towards the eye.
2. Tie in 17 turns of lead free wire with 12 turns on the hook and the other 7 turns back over the top. This is in the area that will be the thorax.
3. Wrap thread over the wire and run it to the bend of the hook.
4. Tie in the two goose biots for the tail. This is tricky (I actually hate goose biots) as the biots have a mind of their own. You need something to spread the biots and either a build up of thread or a small ball of dubbing helps a lot.
5. Tie in the vinyl rib. I run this along the top of the hook from the back of the wire down to the tail and tie it in as tight as I can to try and reduce the bulk.
6. Wind six or seven turns of vinyl rib to form the abdomen, tie off and trim the excess rib.
7. Put a little dubbing at the end of the vinyl and then tie in one goose biot each side pointing back along the abdomen. They should stick out evenly both sides but probably won't. Don't worry if they aren't straight, the fish won't care.
8. Finally dub the thorax with the dubbing over the wire, build up the head a bit and whip finish.

I have tied them with a 3mm black tungsten bead. These work well in faster water or deeper water. Some I even used realistic beads, these look really good.



An early season rainbow taken on a gold bead head hare & copper

Hare & Copper Nymph

This is one of the most basic flies but it is also the nymph that I use most often. I tie five variations, #14, #14 with gold bead, #14 with black bead, #14 with orange bead and #16 with black bead. On the #14 flies I use a 3mm tungsten bead and on the #16 I use a 2.5mm tungsten bead. As I am conscious of the environment, I use leadfree wire (actually a tin antimony alloy) instead of lead wire. This is only 60% the weight of lead but, along with the tungsten bead, these things sink. I don't use any weight other than the bead in the #16.

Instructions are for #14 with gold bead.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic A14
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Bead:	3mm gold tungsten countersunk
Wire:	.015 leadfree
Tail:	Brown hens feather
Rib:	Fine copper wire
Dubbing:	Natural hares fur.

Tying

1. Put the bead on the hook.
2. Put some fly tying cement on the hook and wind on the lead free wire. You want this to cover most of the hook shank.
3. Push the wire hard up into the countersunk area of the hook and put a bit more fly tying cement on top of the wire.
4. Build up a dam of thread behind the wire and then cover the wire with thread.
5. Tie in four or five barbs of the hens feather. Tail should be about the length of the shank of the hook.
6. Tie in the copper wire.
7. Wrap the dubbing forward from the tail to the bead. Try and get a bit of taper but it isn't that important. Don't make the dubbing too tidy.
8. Wrap the copper wire forward and tie off behind the bead
9. Before whip finishing put some fly tying cement on the thread and wind on a couple more turns of thread. This saves having to try and get the cement in the right place afterwards.
10. Whip finish.



Olive Nymph

I was tying flies at a public display some years ago and at that time only tied nymphs in public. I had tied a good number of nymphs during the off season so was looking for something else to tie at the boat show. Looking through my fly tying supplies I spied some dark olive squirrel dubbing just asking to be used. I quickly tied a bead head hare & copper type nymph using the dark olive dubbing instead of hare. I liked what I came up with so tied a few more. This is unusual for me as I normally only tie 3 or 4 of a new fly before using it to prove it works. I also tied a batch for the Southland Fly Fishing Club fly swap, meaning a number of other members would also be getting a totally untried fly. I had tied about 20 of them without any evidence they would work.

I like a challenge so the first fly I tied used on opening morning was an olive nymph. My first fish of the season was caught with an olive nymph as were the other 4 on opening day and another 4 in the first four days of the season. These were on the Aparima, Oreti (including one in a gravel extraction pond) and the Wairaki. My fishing companion was so impressed he got out his tying gear at the hut and tied himself some as well.

It is possible I could have caught all these fish using a hare & copper or any other fly but I don't know. I do know the olive nymph works.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic A14
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Bead:	3mm gold tungsten countersunk
Wire:	.015 leadfree
Tail:	Brown hens feather
Rib:	Fine copper wire
Dubbing:	Dark olive squirrel dubbing



Tying

1. Put the bead on the hook.
2. Put some fly tying cement on the hook and wind on the lead free wire. You want this to cover most of the hook shank.
3. Push the wire hard up into the countersunk area of the hook and put a bit more fly tying cement on top of the wire.
4. Build up a dam of thread behind the wire and then cover the wire with thread.
5. Tie in four or five barbs of the hens feather. Tail should be about the length of the shank of the hook.
6. Tie in the copper wire.
7. Wrap the dubbing forward from the tail to the bead. Try and get a bit of taper but it isn't that important.
8. Wrap the copper wire forward and tie off behind the bead.
9. Before whip finishing put some fly tying cement on the thread and wind on a couple more turns of thread. This saves having to try and get the cement in the right place afterwards.
10. Whip finish.

Parachute Adams.

The parachute adams is a great fly to represent just emerged mayflies. I like to use it on the Mataura in sizes 16 & 18. I usually fish it with another fly in tandem, either an emerger or an unweighted pheasant tail nymph.

I have checked several people's patterns and there seems to be several variations on the materials used. The tail seems to be able to be made from moose hair, pheasant tail, tailing fibres, brown grizzle hackle fibres or brown hackle fibres. The wing post can be made with calf hair or poly yarn. The dubbing can be several different things either natural or synthetic but generally a dark grey or brown. Finally, the hackle can be a grizzle and a brown, a brown grizzle, or just grizzle.

This shows what has happened over the years with fly patterns changing as people don't have the right materials or just find something else works better. Quite how it can be the same pattern if you use completely different materials I don't know.

This is my version. An orange post is handy if there is a lot of white foam on the water.

Materials:

Hook	Black Magic E16 or E18
Thread	Uni-thread 8/0 grey
Tail	Grey tailing fibres
Thorax	Adams gray superfine dubbing
Post:	White or orange poly yarn
Hackles	Grizzle and brown saddle hackle

Tying:

1. Wind the thread half way down the hook and run back to about 1/3 of the way from eye to the bend of the hook.
2. Tie in the poly yarn on top of the hook. Built up a little thread behind and in front of the post and run the thread about 3mm up the post. Trim to length.
3. Tie the two hackles (one at a time) just in front of and up the post.
4. Run the thread down to the bend in the hook and tie in 4 or 5 tailing fibres. Tail length should be about the length of the shank.
5. Dub the body starting very fine and tapering up a bit. There should be some dubbing in front of the post.
6. Wind the hackles down the post (2 turns each) and tie off on the post.
7. Whip finish on the post.
8. Finally dab a little fly tying cement on to the whip finish/bottom of the post.



Pheasant Tail Nymph

The pheasant tail nymph was originally tied by Frank Sawyer when nymph fishing was in its infancy. Sawyer tied it using copper wire for weight and instead of tying thread. While the original version will work well, I tie my pheasant tails without any added weight. This allows them to be fished as nymphs coming to the surface or in conjunction with a heavy nymph on the bottom.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic A16
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Tail:	Pheasant tail
Ribbing:	Fine copper wire
Abdomen:	Pheasant tail
Wing Case:	Pheasant tail.
Thorax:	Dark brown squirrel dubbing.

Tying:

1. Run the thread to the bend of the hook.
2. Tie in tail using five or six barbs of pheasant tail. The tail length should be about the length of the shank of the hook.
3. Tie in copper wire.
4. Wind the pheasant tail forward and tie off on the top of the hook.
5. Wind on ribbing and tie off.
6. Dub thorax.
7. Pull the pheasant tail forward over the thorax to form a wing case and tie off.
8. Trim pheasant tail and whip finish.



Pogo Nymph Variant

Athol fishing guide and Fishing Shop owner Stu Tripney is known for his unusual flies, many of which use foam. His pogo nymph is a nymph that has a foam wing case that actually stops it sinking. This means to be fished as a nymph it has to be dragged down by a heavy nymph (and Stu has plenty of patterns for these). Because the pogo tends to float it dances along in the water in a very enticing manner. Stu also tells us you can use the fly as an emerger but I haven't tried it as one.

This fly is based on Stu's idea but uses different materials and is basically a pheasant tail nymph with a foam wing case. I am not a fan of some of the materials Stu uses in his version although I suspect they last a lot longer than the version shown here.

As it represents a mayfly it should be good anywhere there are mayflies. I have used this nymph with success in the Mataura River and it would have been successful in the Worsley River if they had stayed attached to the line when hit hard by rainbows. (I ran out of them in the Worsley before I managed to land a fish.)

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic E16
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Tail:	Pheasant tail
Ribbing:	Fine copper wire
Abdomen:	Pheasant tail
Wing Case:	1.5mm black foam 3-4mm wide.
Thorax:	Dark brown squirrel dubbing.

Tying:

1. Tie in tail using five or six barbs of pheasant tail. The tail length should be about the length of the shank of the hook.
2. Tie in copper wire.
3. Wind the pheasant tail forward and tie off. Trim the remaining pheasant tail.
4. Wind on ribbing and tie off.
5. Tie in the foam on the top of the hook at the back of the thorax.
6. Dub thorax.
7. Loop foam over thorax (but don't pull tight as it will squash the foam) and tie off.
8. Trim foam and whip finish.



Royal Wulff

This is one of my go to dry flies. I have a reputation for arriving at the river, tying on a royal wulff and then from the bend of its hook, a gold bead head hare & copper nymph. It is a deserved reputation and the combination works well for me. The tying method listed below is how I tie my royal wulffs, you may wish to do it differently.

Materials:

Hook:	Black Magic B12
Thread:	Uni-thread 6/0 black
Tail:	Moose body hair (can use deer if you prefer)
Abdomen:	Peacock herl
Band:	Red holographic mylar
Wing:	White cow hair
Hackle:	Brown saddle

Tying

1. Run the thread half way down the hook.
2. Run the thread back and tie in the stacked cow hair facing towards the eye of the hook.
3. Build up a dam of thread in front of the cow hair to stand it up.
4. Run the thread through the middle of the cow hair to form 2 wings. Use figure 8 tying to split the two halves and run the thread separately up each wing to get it to form correctly.
5. Run the thread down to the bend of the hook and tie in the tail.
6. Tie in two peacock herls and wind forward just over 1/3 the length of the abdomen and tie off.
7. Tie in a length of mylar and wind around hook to form the red band. Make sure the band goes over the peacock herl.
8. Wind the peacock herl forward to form the rest of the abdomen, tie off and trim.
9. Run the thread back in front of the wings and tie in the hackle sticking out past the eye of the hook.
10. Wind the thread back to the front of the abdomen.
11. Wind the hackle back with turns in front of and behind the wings.
12. Tie off at the front of the abdomen and trim hackle.
13. Work the thread in turns through the hackle being careful not to squash the hackles, build up a head and whip finish.





At the vice