

# Contributions to the Bobbin

By

Jack Blackman

## beginners CORNER

### *At My Fly Tying Bench*

by Jack Blackman

When dubbing the thread we have been taught to use various waxes, which are put onto the thread by stroking, this so often results in too much wax on the thread and even leaves small lumps.

I am currently using Overton's Wonder Wax, but any suitable dubbing wax will do. Holding the material to be dubbed between the finger and thumb of your left hand together with the bobbin in your palm.

Dab the forefinger of the right hand with a stroking movement on the wax. A little wax is left on your finger, pick a tiny amount of material and spin. As you spin, the wax leaves your finger onto the dubbing, exactly where you want it.

This works well for all dubbing, both synthetic and naturals, especially when using difficult to spin seals fur (if you still have some).

## Bass Poppers

By Jack "The MainMan" Blackman

### MATERIALS:

In addition to your normal fly tying vice, you will require a very sharp knife, a junior hack saw blade, some coarse emery paper (No. 100), some fine emery paper, a piece of board onto which the emery paper can be pinned and some Pratley's Clear Quickset Epoxy.

**Hook:** Hooks should be long shank wide gape stingers. These hooks are not easy to find and you will have to phone around. Size 2 is the best size for a start.

**Thread:** I use 3/0 thread, usually white.

**Body:** The main material will be an old slop shoe or high density urethane foam (it must be very hard). Hackles to your choice. Living rubber for legs, some pearl krystal flash, some white or coloured calf tail hair.

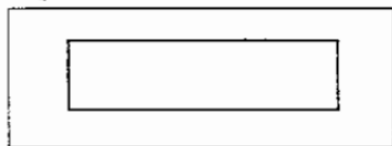
### TYING:

The formula to cut the initial block of foam using a No. 2 hook as suggested is:

Length - from eye to opposite point of hook 30mm.

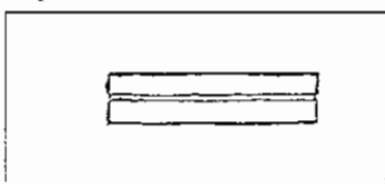
Width and Depth - Half the shank length.

#### Step 1



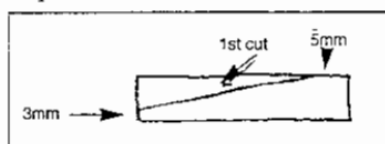
Cut a rectangle of foam 30mm X 15mm X 15mm.

#### Step 2



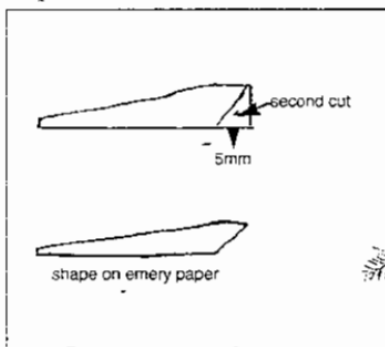
Using the junior hack saw blade, cut a groove to take the hook.

#### Step 3



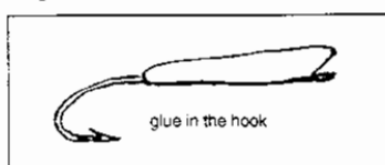
With the knife, make the first cut at the top of the block and a second cut at the other end

#### Step 4



The block is ready to be shaped on the emery paper. Care should be taken making sure that each side is even.

#### Step 5



Glue in the hook making sure that it is mounted straight. Once the glue has cured, place it in a glass of water to see whether the popper floats properly with the bend of the hook straight down. If the hook hangs to the left, sand off a little on the right hand side of the foam body.

#### Step 6

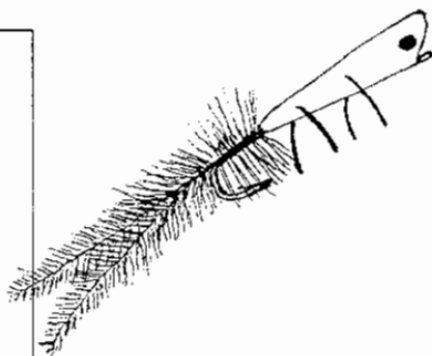
Once the foam and hook float straight up and down, add the tail material.

#### Step 7

Take a strand of living rubber, thread it onto a needle and push it through the foam as shown on the sketch.

#### Step 8

Most slops material does not need colouring, but this is your choice. Finally paint on a black eye on each side.



### Of Tall Tales & Quickies

The next time you decide to tie your favourite dry fly, try using Duck feathers. This will definitely ensure that your fly floats because Ducks float.

# letters to Editor

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*\* My sincerest thanks to Jack "The MainMan" Blackman and Russell Coote for sending me this letter and article. Also Jack, thanks for the compliments. I am certain that with the contributions of all the members, the Bobbin will continue to be informative, interesting, educational and amusing for still a while yet.*

## Retrieving the Fly

By Jack "The MainMan" Blackman

This newsletter is great, amusing, interesting and educational and may it so continue. Congratulations to the Editor, Sudesh Pursad. Keep up the good work. As the editor of a sister newsletter, The Leader, I know how difficult it is to persuade members to put pen to paper so their experiences can be shared with others.

I am not going to talk about flies, but about how to retrieve those flies that have come from your vices, lovingly tied while dreaming of that monster fish that will take your new creation. Many anglers blame the fly for no takes and change from fly to fly while using the same retrieve all day long. As an experiment some years ago I used the same fly pattern (in sizes 14, 12 and 8) for a whole season and my success was as good as when I used a variety of flies. I can hear you asking, what fly? It was the Hot Cat.

I put my success down to very varied retrieves and depths that I fished the fly. I must also add that a number 14 Flat Cat represents quite a different underwater insect from one tied on a number 8 hook with a long shank. Some were also heavily weighted to be fished deep and some unweighted to be fished 5 to 50 cm below the surface. When I have made my cast, I take the line over my middle finger of the rod hand so that when I let go of the line with the line hand, this finger can trap the line against the cork handle. This finger acts as an additional rod eye. Immediately after the line lands on the water I make two fairly long strips by pulling the line with the line hand over the extended finger. Many times a trout (the last fish taken in this way was a springer) has taken on the first or

second strip.

I then allow the fly to sink. How long you wait for the fly to sink depends on the depth of the water and your patience. I sometimes wait 60 to 90 seconds and suddenly while everything appears to be static the end of your floating line gives a slight movement forward or to the left or right. If you do not set the hook, pulling the line hand and lifting the rod tip you will have lost a good fish. This is known as a fish taking on the drop.

If there is no take before you lose patience waiting, make two or three short strips, this will lift the fly up. Stop, allowing the fly to sink again repeat until about half the line has been retrieved, then make continual short retrieves, a fish could be following the fly and as the fly comes closer. Speed up the retrieve. It is important that you retrieve the fly until you can see it in the water. Do not start the next cast until you have seen the fly for at least ten seconds. I lost a good springer recently because I took the fly out of the fishes mouth as it was taking. Vary the speed of the retrieve from very very slow, through to fairly quickly. Remember most of the aquatic fish food cannot move very fast, particularly in fresh water.

When using an intermediate or fast sinking line the retrieval process is similar. After the initial first two pulls, wait for the line, leader and fly to sink. The count down method is used to get the fly down to whatever depth the fish are feeding and should be done, one and two and three through to say thirty. If you feel the line on the bottom or the fly collects weed, make the next count down to say, twenty and again to

fifteen. At whatever count down number you connect with a fish, you can count down to the same number with the next cast.

When using a sinking line the retrieve should also vary in length and speed of strip. I believe that the fly used represents a tiny minnow and often a take will come on a fairly quick retrieve. If you have observed minnows in the water you will see they move very fast for 20 to 50 cm and then stop before moving again.

There are many different retrieves and you will develop your own methods. Never, never use what I call the static retrieve, ie. retrieving the same amount of line at the same speed hour after hour. You will catch fish but many will turn away.

A word about fishing a dry fly. It should be left to float naturally without any movement by the angler. Occasionally a light twitch can be made, moving the fly only 10 mm. I have seen anglers pulling a dry fly across the top of the water and wondering why they do not get a take.

Perhaps this article will encourage others to write of their experiences with tactics or flies. I like "Samaki's" Grizzle Minnow.



## Emergent Caddis Pupa

by Jack Blackman

### Dressing

Hook: Size 8 - 14 standard shank  
Thread: 6/0 waxed to match body  
Weight: In surface film — none.  
Hanging below surface — 4 to 6 lead wire in front of tail position.  
Abdomen: Synthetic shiny dubbing  
Rib: Darker colour thread than body  
Thorax: same as abdomen, but darker  
Wings: Two hackle tip  
Legs: Any soft barred hackles  
Head: Same as thorax  
Antennae: Two long thin bared fibres (optional)

### Tying Procedure

#### Thread

Start the thread at the eye and wind close turns to just round the bend.

#### Weight

If required, wind 4 to 6 turns, depending on hook size, down the shank from the bend. Varnish wax and thread.

#### Rib

Tie in a length of darker thread at the bend.

### Abdomen

Use fawn, brown, through to light or dark olive synthetic dubbing from the bend half way along the shank. Wind the rib in even turns over the dubbing. Cut off the surplus.

### Thorax

The same as the abdomen, but darker. Tie off leaving at least two eye lengths after the thorax. Make a loop of dubbing over the top of the thorax to represent the wings emerging, pick out with the dubbing needle so the hairs slope back over the body.

### Wings

Emergent wings represented by hackle tips lying along or just below the body. Alternative wings can be made from slithers of grey duck wings.

### Head

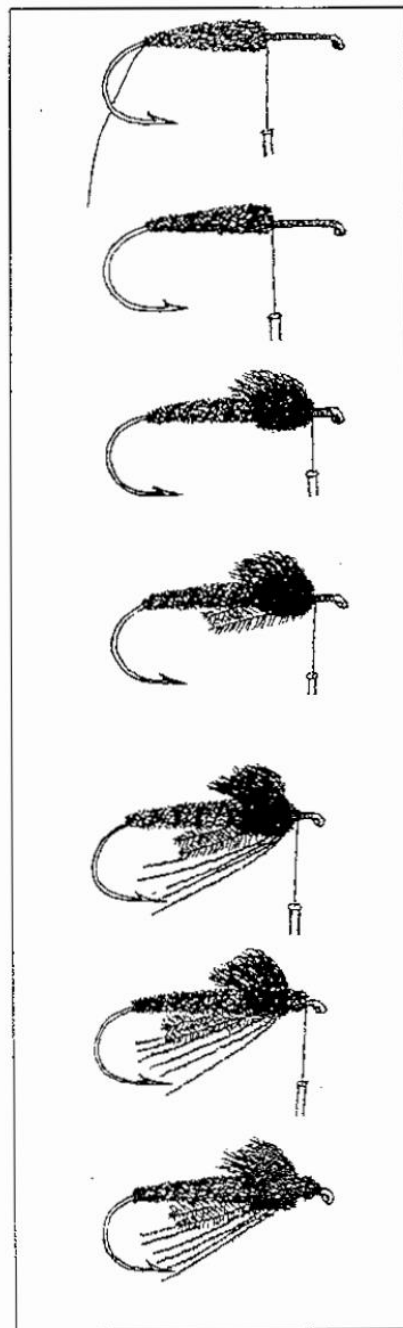
A small ball of the same dubbing material as the thorax.

### Antennae

Select two bared fibre, teal, grizzly, cock or hen pheasant tail, etc, tie on so they point forward over the eye.

### Finish

Whip finish and varnish head.



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Please send articles to:  
Sudesh Pirsad (031-418832)  
411 Silverglen Drive, Silverglen, 4092  
or give articles to Kevin Cole or myself  
at Club Meetings

## DDD

### DUCKWORTH'S DARGLE DELIGHT

by Jack Blackman

#### Dressing

Hook: Size 12 to 6

Thread: Grey or Brown

Tail: Small bunch of deer hair or klipspringer

Hackle: Dark Brown

Feelers: One on each side pearl mylar

#### Tying Procedure

Start the thread above the point of the hook and lock in place above the barb. Select 6 to 10 deer hair fibres and tie in at the bend. The tail should be about the length of the hook. Coarse fibres are inclined to splay. Tie in tight above the point of the hook and then wind three or four gentle turns back to the bend of the hook.

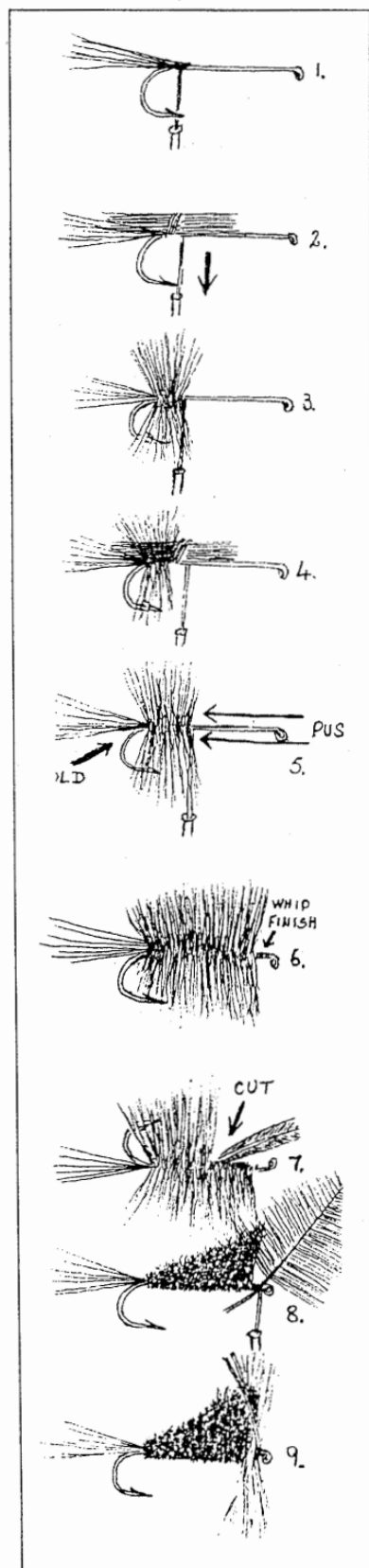
Lay a small bunch of fibres along the top of the shank (see fig. 2). Take two loose turns of thread around the bunch.

When the thread is straight down under the hook, pull down firmly and the hair will spin around the shank (see fig. 3). Tie in a second small bunch with two loose turns and spin as for the first bunch. Add further bunches and spin until the shank is full to within two eye lengths from the eye. Push up tight towards the tail between each bunch (see fig. 5). Whip finish.

Remove the hook from the vice, turn it upside down and trim flat as close to the shank as possible (see fig. 7).

Place the hook back in the vice and retie thread. Tie in a brown cock hackle with a fibre length one and a half to two times the gape (see figs. 8 & 9).

Tie in a length of pearl mylar each side of the head, slightly longer than the hackle. Whip finish and varnish.



## We're Moving

Early in July we will move to a brand new and larger premises at THE QUARRY, Hilton's great new shopping complex, just two minutes in a near straight line from the N3. We will be welcoming you there to: ample parking, more tackle, more books, a dam on which to try out our rods and bold casting schools or casual casting lessons. For non-fishing companions, there will be dozens of interesting shops to browse through as well as a supermarket and a bottle store. Try it, you'll like it.

We will be needing a part time fly fishing consultant to join us in the new shop as soon as possible. There is also a possibility of a full time position.

Applicants must be experienced flyfishers and fly tyers. Contact Roger Baert (0331-421855) to arrange an interview.



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# freshWATER

## ADAMS

by Jack Blackman

### Dressing

Hook: Size 12 to 18 fine wire

Thread: 6/0 waxed pale grey

Tail: Grizzle and brown cock hackle fibres

Hackle: One grizzle and one brown cock hackle

Wing: Two grizzle hackle tips

Body: Muskrat or the blue/grey underfur of English rabbit

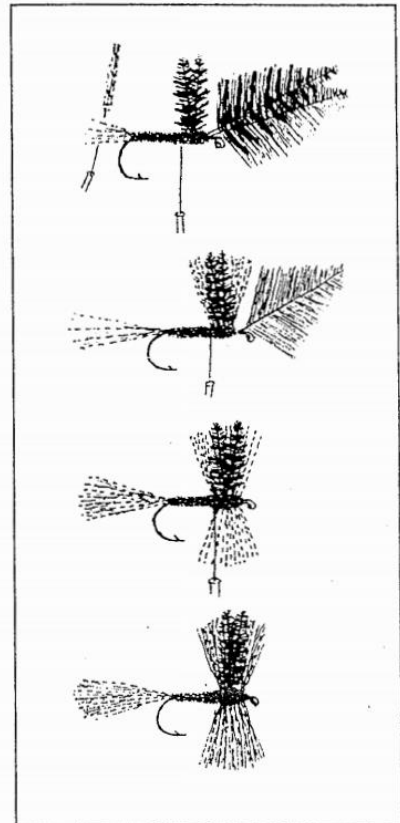
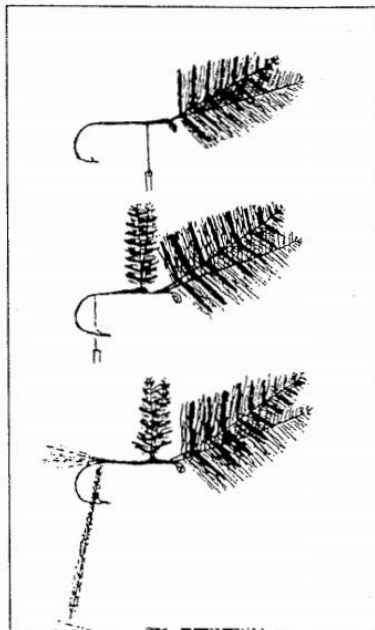
### Tying Procedure

Make four locked turns next to eye.

Select one grizzle and one brown cock hackle whose fibres are one and a half times the width of the gape. Tie in the brown hackle with two turns of thread. Tie in the grizzle hackle and bind both butts half way down the hook shank. Both hackles should lie over the eye of the hook.

Wind thread back to within one quarter of the shank length of the eye. Select two grizzle hackle tips, tie in with the butts towards the bend. Bind the butts firmly to shank. Lift the hackle tips vertical from the shank. Move the thread just in front of the tips and make several turns forming a little

lump in front of the wing butts so they remain vertical. Make a figure of eight between the two hackle tips. This knot must be made loosely until the turns are completed and the thread is below the shank, then tighten.



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## Of Tall Tales & Quickies

Recently, Bob went fishing to the North Pier. Being the middle of the holidays, the Pier was packed with fishermen who revelled in catching little pinkies and karanteens. A little boy ( $\pm 8$  yrs) comes up to him and asks if he is flyfishing. On the yes reply, he says, "But you can't catch fish here, you can only catch fish in a dam" and continues with his fishing. A few minutes later, another little boy ( $\pm 10$  yrs) comes up to him. "Have you caught anything?". On the negative reply, he retorts "I think that you are using the wrong trace, because everyone else is catching fish", and then buggers off. Bob almost fell into the water laughing.