

## Tips from Gordon

March 2015



These fly tying tips are taken from Gordon van Der Spuy's weekly e mail. Gordon is now supplying a range of top quality fly tying materials and barbless hooks. He can be contacted at [gordon.vanderspuy@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.vanderspuy@gmail.com) . He has kindly allowed the Bobbin to reproduce his tips [here](#).

- #1: When buying partridge feathers go for skins, it simply gives you more options. Mind you go for skins, period, regardless of the bird. With a skin you are able to select matching pairs of feathers, in the case of a pappa roach for example you'd need both a left (feather from left side of skin) and a matching right for the 'wing case', these feathers are mirror images of each other. When tied tent wing style you'll get a more 'Aquadynamic' fly, tie two rights like that and very often you have a spinning fly, no good. Skins also offer you a wider choice in terms of feather types. They may seem expensive but in the long run they are more economical than buying hundreds of packets of materials in search of perfect pairs.
  
- #2: When dubbing around mono eyes, like you do for damsel and dragons **don't dub in a figure of eight fashion around the eyes**, this gives you a round head. Dragonflies and damselflies have flat heads so rather **dub around the individual eyes**, this will give one a flatter broader head very much like the naturals you intend to imitate.

- #3:** Turkey biots make awesome bodies for both nymphs and dries, especially mayflies. They are longer than goose biots so you don't run out of material in mid wrap; they are easy to use, durable and look cool too. They have a natural taper which provides for beautiful carrot shaped abdomens every time. On the one edge of the biot you have microscopic little hairs, when wound one gets a gilled effect, crustaceous even. **Before tying biots in wet them for a minute or two**, this will soften them and makes them easy to wrap. Sometimes they are rather brittle, this wetting helps a lot. I put them in my mouth, spit is great stuff, but if you are more civilised than me just put them in a little bowl of water.
- #4:** When working with Gallos de Leon line the fibres up in a hair stacker, like you would deer hair, before working with them. Cut the fibres off the feather stem, don't strip them, if you do, no amount of lining up in a stacker will help you. Gallos de leon makes great wings on mayflies, tie it in compara dun style for super light, super shiny, almost translucent wings. Google 'pardo de meana' and 'Luis maena Baeza" to see example of how the Spanish use these feathers.
-