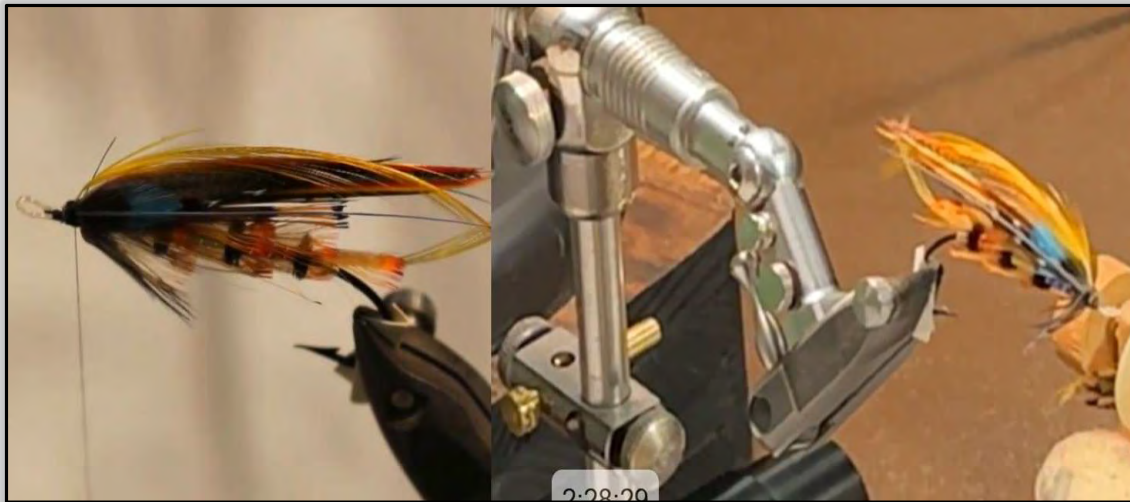


Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Guild

Newsletter

Summer 2026



The Popham by Steve Gobin

The Guild finished the 2025-2026 fly tying season strong with our May meeting where lifetime member Steve Gobin demonstrated how to tie the Popham. The above screenshots are from the Guild's archived Zoom video feed.

This publication along with our members' excellent fly tying is instrumental in preserving the craftsmanship required to tie classic Atlantic salmon flies.

Note from the President:

I'm sure you will agree with me when I say, "I believe we had a pretty good 2025-2026 tying season at the Guild." We tried to bring you informative meetings with solid techniques and methods to explore in your tying. With so much information out there for the Classic fly tier available in videos, books and online tutorials, it can sometimes be hard to settle on something that would be of interest to our members. But with feedback from you and the consistent attendance at our meetings, along with Mark Spaur's live presentations and Lisa DeBruycker's video archives (see front cover), I think, why should we change what's working!



By utilizing the talent we have at hand within our group we introduced new techniques and fresh ideas for you to incorporate into your tying. We will continue to do so, and I appreciate all those who demonstrated at the meetings. Seeing different talent using their methods and tricks helps us expand our comfort zone, which I think is great.

As you can see, Hunter has again put forth a terrific newsletter filled with solid information, pictures and historical bits for you to enjoy. Just another veteran member going the extra mile for the good of the group, this I believe helps distinguish us as a premier group in the Classic Salmon Fly world.

For 2026-2027, I have three meetings planned with guests to share their tying and dyeing methods with us, the dates will be set and shared with all of you as we get ready to start our new tying year. I look forward to getting back at it with all of you this fall, I have started tying again, as I hope you have tried to get a few sessions in as well. With that in mind, please enjoy the Newsletter presented here and hopefully it will get the juices flowing or at least begin the process of making a short list of patterns to try – like Earnest Crosfield's Brockweir, Bloody Yellow, or Gledwing.

See you all this fall, enjoy your summer with family and friends, cheers!

– Glenn Wilson

Club Officers:

President: Glenn Wilson
Treasurers: Steve Brocco and Megan Brocco
Librarian: Dareld Thompson
Fly Archive: Hunter Bachand

Treasurer's Report (as of February 15, 2026):

Bank Savings Account: \$4,589.44
PayPal Receipts Account: \$1,144.38
Cash On Hand: \$ 710.00
Total Balance: \$6,443.82

Note: When paying dues via PayPal, be sure to check the box labeled "friends and family" rather than "for goods and services." Otherwise, PayPal charges \$1.20 per transaction.

Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting: 9:00 am Saturday, October 17th, Issaquah King County Library System
administration headquarters
Fly for October – **TBD**

British Fly Fair International 2027

February 6-7, Staffordshire County Showground
Stafford, England



Oregon FFI Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo 2027

March 12-13, Linn County Expo Center, Albany, Oregon



Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo 2027

January 29-30, Expo Idaho, Garden City, Idaho



East Idaho Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Expo 2027

March 19-20, Mountain America Center,
Idaho Falls, Idaho



SIM Fly Festival 2027

June (dates TBD), Scuola Italiana di Pesca a Mosca
Castel de Sangro, Italy



Experience the World of Fly Fishing (EWF) 2027

April 10-11, Event Forum Furstenfeld
Furstenfeldbruck near Munich, Germany



Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show 2026

November 14-15, 2026

Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

A large banner for the Irish Fly Fair & Angling Show 2026. The banner features a green silhouette of a fisherman on the left, a central image of a river scene with a fish jumping, and the text 'IRISH FLY FAIR & ANGLING SHOW 14th & 15th NOVEMBER 2026'. Below the main text, there are three circular icons: a fly, a hotel, and a fish. At the bottom, there are four icons: a fly, a person, a gear, and a group of people, with the text 'TOP ANGLING BRANDS', 'EXPERT DEMOS', 'GEAR & TACKLE', and 'A COMMUNITY THAT INSPIRES'. On the right side, there is a location pin icon and the text 'The Killyhevlin Hotel Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh'. The banner also includes the text 'EXPERIENCE Enniskillen Be a part of it.' and 'ERLEBNISWELT FLIEGENFISCHEN'.

Membership:

Lifetime/Honorary Members: Steve Brocco, Steve Gobin, Steve Morton, and John Olschewsky

Active Members:

Garry Anderson	Frank Fortino	Ray Miles
Tom Anderson	Judy Gattinella	Bob Miller
Will Arrant (new)	Ben Gehrke	Bob Newman
Hunter Bachand	Peter Giffin	Ringo Nishioka
Linda Bachand	Jack Gillis	Kevin Perkins
Chuck Ballard	Rockwell Hammond	Nicholas Riggs
David Barlow (new)	Jon Harrang (new)	Dave Roberts
Dutch Baughman	Carolyn Hellmuth	Levi Rorem
Gary Bergquist (new)	Danferd Henke	Pete Rorem
Ted Berkeley	Joel Hill (new)	Jesse Scott
Byron Bjerke	Tim Howland	Stack Scoville
Hope Blackburn	Cal Hudspeth (new)	Mark Spaur
Brad Boyden	Birt Kinghorn	Jeffrey Stander (new)
Peggy Brenner (new)	Joe Kristof	Chic Sundahl
Brett Breuel	Gary Litman	Byron Suomi
George Breuel	William Lovelace	Dareld Thompson
Megan Brocco	Matt Ludden	Jeff Thomsen
Tom Corbiere	Kristen Macy	Larry Wasserman
Aaron Culley	Donovan Maddox	Barry Webster
Sean Dahlquist	Bethany Maloney	Brandi Hunt Wiliford
Brittany Davenport	Mike Marlatt	Evan Winnett (new)
Lisa DeBruyckere	Paul Martin (new)	Jared Wimbisah (new)
Terry Dix	Brian Mayer	Evan Winnett (new)
Joy Fenton	Jim McKinnon	Garren Wood
James Ferguson	John McLain	Dennis Worley
Eric Foch		Todd Yorke

2025-2026 Year-in-Review

October: Gordon



Gordon
Tied by Glenn Wilson



Gordon Ranger
Tied by Glenn Wilson

December: Doctor Series



Red Doctor
Tied by Glenn Wilson



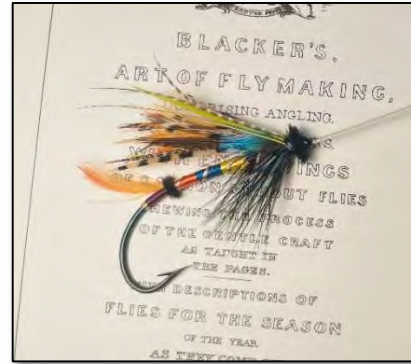
Yellow Doctor
Tied by Glenn Wilson

January: Butcher



Tied by Glenn Wilson

February: William Blacker's Fly No. 6 for the River Tweed
(**Hunter Bachand** was our featured tyer today)



Tied by Hunter Bachand

March: Rainbow



Tied by Hunter Bachand



Black King

April

Guest Tyer – **Kevin Nadeau**

(Black King, Helmsdale Doctor, Campbell, Gold Rover, and an unknown fly from the collection of Jason Lewis)



Unknown fly from Jason Lewis Collection



Campbell (low water)



Gold Rover



Helmsdale Doctor

May: Popham
(**Steve Gobin** was our featured tyer today)



Tied by Steve Gobin

Awards

Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International Fly Tyer of the Year Award

At the Oregon Council annual Fly Tyer Expo in Albany, fly tyer chair Cathy Hamilton, presented the Stan Walters Fly Tyer of the Year award to guild member

Mike Marlatt

Mike has been involved with the Oregon Council Fly Fishers International and the Eugene/Albany fly show for over 20 years. He lives in Eugene.



Most Improved Fly Tyer Award

At the April meeting, Glenn Wilson presented the Most Improved Fly Tyer award to

Eric Foch

The award is presented annually, and the recipient becomes the caretaker for the Blacker Ghost Fly #2 Plate with flies tied by guild members.



And the Hat goes to.....

Following the Albany Fly show, Glenn Wilson presented the Hat to

Todd Yorke

The Guild awarded **Steve Morton** with a lifetime membership and presented him with a Guild shirt for his savory support on many occasions.

What will he cook up next year?



Tips Tags & Tales

Entertaining News, Rumors, Stories, and Folklore

How to make old tying wax new again

At our March meeting, Glenn Wilson demonstrated how to combine old dried out wax with a small amount of resin and castor oil in a small metal container (used votive candle insert or similar metal can bottom or metal jar lid) and then warm up the contents over a candle until well combined.



What are Red Kite Feathers?

Occasionally, you may see these feathers and wonder what they are. In Blacker's time, the Red Kite was a common bird of prey that was hunted to extinction. A good substitute is Impian Pheasant tail or cinnamon Turkey tail.



The Fishermen's Knot

44

SALMON AND SEA-TROUT

the water, the silk whipping frays out, and, besides, the whole plan is superfluous. Treble gut casts ought to be woven without knots, and single gut is

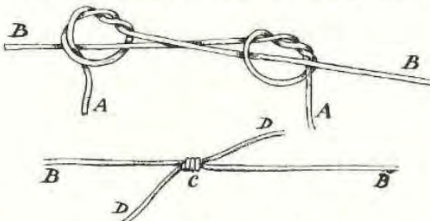


FIG. 12.—SINGLE FISHERMAN'S KNOT.

perfectly secure when tied in a single fisherman's knot (Fig. 12). The double fisherman's knot (Fig. 13), though it looks a complicated affair on

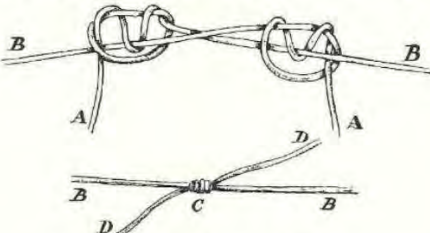


FIG. 13.—DOUBLE FISHERMAN'S KNOT.

paper, is really a very simple one to tie, and is even firmer than the other, though not quite so neat when drawn tight. Some fishermen recommend a

Sir Herbert Maxwell was born in 1835 (10 years later than George Kelson). He is considered one of the later authors on fishing in the Victorian Era. His 1898 book ***Salmon and Sea Trout*** includes many fishing techniques that can be helpful to anglers today. The Single Fisherman's Knot and the Double Fisherman's Knot can be used effectively to attach fly line to backing.

First, place the end of the fly line to be attached to the backing (8 inches) in acetone for 1 to 2 minutes. The acetone will allow the polymer coating on the fly line to be easily removed using your fingernail. Allow the line to dry, then connect the fly line to the backing using either of the knots. The double nature of these paired knots is significantly stronger than a single blood knot tied over the fly line using the backing and will slide through the rod guides easily.

What is the origin of the fly called the Jock Scott?



On page 123 of Herbert Maxwell's book ***Salmon and Sea Trout***, he includes a photo of the original Jock Scott. The photo includes a handwritten description of the origin of the fly.

"It was tied in 1845 during a voyage to Norway by Jock Scott, fisherman to Lord John Scott and is now in the possession of Mr. Young of Glendoune, near Girvan."

In 1898, he writes, "Twenty years ago it was considered indispensable to the success on the Tweed, until its glories were eclipsed by the more meretricious display of the ***Wilkinson***, a fly which held the field in that river for many seasons and still holds it, in partnership with the ***Silver Grey*** and the more sombre ***Sir Richard***."

Tool Time

Mixed Wing Stacker



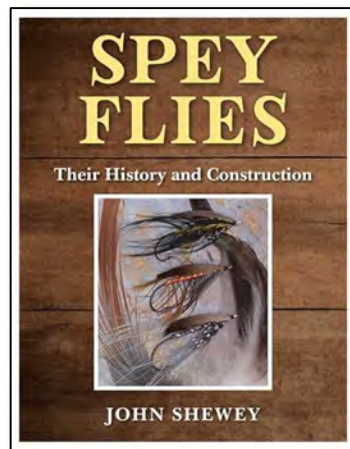
Following the February guild meeting on tying mixed wing flies in the style of William Blacker, Dareld Thompson developed a tool to help gather a variety of mixed wing fibres in preparation of tying them on the fly. His device consists of 5 tongue depressors: one for the base, two for the middle, glued upright to the base and two for the sides glued on the outside and one inch forward to leave a space for the feather fibres. Once the fibres are arranged, insert two quarters to hold the wing materials in place and tie the butt ends in a bundle before removing.

Library Report

Guild Librarian, **Dareld Thompson**, has prepared an updated inventory of all items in the library as of December 2024. Contact him by email (skagitangler@gmail.com) if there is something you would like him to bring to an upcoming meeting for you. A few items to mention are:

2026 Additions to the Guild Library available for checkout:

Spey Flies – Their History and Construction, John Shewey, 2022



Book Reviews

As noted above by Dareld, the guild has a tremendous library and there are new additions annually. Before the last meeting, I asked Dareld to bring me the new (2017) book regarding Ernest Crosfield. This is a short book (107 pages), on a somewhat obscure but well respected Atlantic salmon fly tyer. After reading the book, I decided to share what I learned in this newsletter. I encourage anyone in the guild to do the same with any topic, book, chapter of a book, or magazine article.

- Hunter Bachand

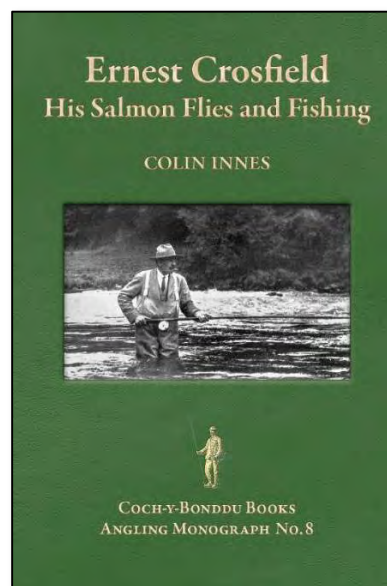
Ernest Crosfield – His Salmon Flies and Fishing (2017)

-by Colin Innes

This book was published by Paul Morgan, owner of Coch-y-Bonddu Books and a well-respected source for old and new books on angling and hunting. His double-wide booth at the British Fly Fair and Irish Fly Fair is always worth visiting where he displays thousands of books for fly tyers and outdoor sportsmen.

This book is the 8th in a series of monographs on the history and literature of angling.

The author has brought together Crosfield's published writing, writing about him by others, and illustrations of the flies he tied into one convenient package.



Ernest Crossfield died 100 years ago (in 1925). I thought this centennial anniversary would be an excellent time to recognize his contributions to Atlantic salmon fly tying and bring to light many of his contributions. I agree with Colin and Paul that this book fills a gap in the great library of fishing books and deserves a spot on your shelves too. Unfortunately, Ernest Crosfield never gave us a book on dressing an Atlantic salmon fly. Paul Morgan asked Colin to pull together all the known Crosfield articles, both those that he had written and those written about him. During his research, he scoured through the archives of the Flyfishers' Club in London where he found a frame of flies tied by the great man himself, which had been presented to the club by Dr. T E Pryce Tannatt. Photos of the flies are included in the book.

Ernest Morland Crosfield was born to a wealthy Quaker family in northern England in 1856. He led the sort of sporting life expected at the time for a man of means which included shooting, big game hunting, and salmon fishing. Ernest's brother, Sydney, was also an excellent angler and it is thought that the famous Icelandic salmon fly the Crosfield (sometimes Crossfield) was invented by Sydney.



Mrs. Ernest Crosfield Daffodil

Crosfield was well known during the late 1800's and early 1900's due to his fishing and fly tying notoriety, but during this time he also became known as a great horticulturalist.

He and his wife cultivated numerous flowers including daffodils. They began staging spectacular displays at flower exhibitions and won first place at the 1904 Midland Daffodil Show. He became the vice-president of the Midland Daffodil Society in 1906 and continued in this role until his death at the age of 68 in the summer of 1925. The society voted to give an award to his seedling *The Mrs. Crosfield*.

In 1915, The Crosfield's dug up their daffodil bulbs and moved to the village of Brockweir on the River Wye. Here, he invented the rough claret-bodied fly which he fished so successfully on their home water and named it after the Brockweir village.



Brockweir



Village of Brockweir

Crosfield the Athlete and Craftsman: In the Archive of the Flyfisher's Club, Innes found a lengthy account of Crosfield's sporting accomplishments. The comprehensive details were in an account of his life which was received by the club in 1955 (30 years after his death). Crosfield had been more than ordinarily good at billiards – not the ordinary family or club billiards, but the kind that is deemed worthy of recording in current sporting literature. As a cricketer, he was considered good enough to play in first-class matches. He followed the game long after he had ceased to be an active participant. In fact, he had attended the Varsity match the night before he died. As a game shot, he was well known throughout Great Britain. His home at Brockweir is decorated with specimen heads of various big game that had fallen to his rifle in Central Europe, Canada, South Africa and India. As a salmon fisher, it is safe to assert that very few indeed were his equal and none his superior. He had fished on practically every river of repute in Great Britain and Norway.

He excelled at fly fishing. He had an eye for water – and could say almost instinctively when and how any particular pool should fish. His casting was a delight to watch with either a 17-footer or a light grilse rod he used in the summer months (with which alone he accounted for over a thousand salmon). In Crosfield's opinion – fly fishing for salmon was the most difficult and exacting method of taking that fish, requiring more skill, endurance, application and observation than any other. Crosfield was also known to have made split cane rods with amazing perfection.

Crosfield's type of salmon fly: He preferred sparsely dressed, fine-headed flies. It was a revelation to watch him dress a fly. He had worked out the quickest and best method of manipulating his materials and could turn out several dozen flies in a few hours. One of his favorite patterns was the **Black Silk**, which wherever it is used, never fails to score and at the first introduction invariably causes love at first sight on the part of every salmon fisherman of experience and discrimination (myself included).

He was also partial to a rough claret-bodied fly dressed in the same style as the Black Silk. "The salmon in the Wye are fond of a dark rough body in the spring," he used to say. However, even his rough bodies were dubbed with a very light amount of seal fur to maintain a thin sparse body.

Crosfield's life anthology, notes that, "in addition to the **Brockweir**, he is credited with inventing the **Gledwing** and also the **Bloody Yellow**, "for in looks and in achievements it deserves the adjective." All of Crosfield's patterns had a distinctive character. They are quite different to anything else. Their durability and their capacity to stand rough usage has convinced anglers that they deserve a spot in their fly book or box.



Gledwing



Bloody Yellow

One of Crosfield's maxims was that in summer when small flies and light gear were necessary, "**One could hardly keep the fly close enough to the surface or fish it quick enough.**" For that reason, he used to fish with a short line thrown square to the stream and keep the rod point up pulling line through the rings almost as soon as the fly had lit upon the water. His fishing method was in direct contrast to the other methods that required that the fly should travel passively and evenly, whether it be a floating dry on the surface, or just under, and no faster than the current.

Game Fish Records, by Jock Scott: In this 1936 collection of sporting achievements, Jock Scott (the pen name of Donald G. Feris Rudd) includes a chapter with numerous game hunting and fishing accomplishments of Ernest Crosfield with a few special acknowledgements. He writes:

- In 1902, during 20 days of fishing on Iceland's Ellidaa River, Mr. Crosfield killed 299 fish including salmon and grilse.
- In October of 1918, Mr. Crosfield landed eleven successive fish weighing an average of 23 pounds, while fishing on the River Dee (Aberdeenshire).
- By the end of 1919, Mr. Crosfield had caught nearly 1,500 salmon.

In summary, Jock Scott acknowledges Crosfield's greatness as follows:

The old-fashioned salmon fly resembled a feather mop when wet, and it must have been quite impossible for such a mass of feathers, often of a very stiff nature, to show any life at all. Further they fished very badly in strong water.

Mr. Crosfield's flies were the exact opposite. He ruthlessly discarded each feather that appeared redundant. Some observers had said that of all the fly dressers they have seen, **Mr. Crosfield was by far the quickest!**

No one could tie flies like Ernest Crosfield. He developed a system of his own which produced beautifully translucent flies, by discarding every scrap of superfluous material so that each feather performed its allotted task and in so doing, produced flies with a small head. His flies entered the water without any flare and fished with a minimum of feather drag. He was undoubtedly one of the pioneers in the modern movement towards slim, translucent, streamlined flies.

The Evolution of the Salmon Fly, by Dr. T E Pryce-Tannatt (from *The Field Annual* 1952). The Field published a yearly review, commissioning the leading writers of the day. This was very much a deluxe production printed in a larger format and with better quality paper than the standard magazine.

27 years after Crosfield's death, Pryce-Tannatt wrote the following about his modern style of salmon fly (*I replaced some of the outdated vernacular with 2026 tongue and cheek terminology*):

The Jock Scott, with its plethora of exotic plumes (*difficulty to be procured even in 1952*), is resplendently dressed with an imposing structure and fit to be mounted on an altar of worship. The embellishment of jungle cock, chatterer, macaw and golden pheasant toppings are included to catch the eye of the angler at every step. The jointed body and tag being carried down so as to occupy an appreciable proportion of the hook bend to minimize even the possibility of any quibbling among guild members about skimping on materials. The head is large – inevitably

so due to large quantity of materials to be tied in along with the thick twisted gut loop. But the fact that the head isn't larger gives credit to the tier of a "well done"



achievement that leaves little room for anyone on Facebook to criticize.



Rough Claret



Claret Silk

The somewhat different in appearance Rough Claret and Claret Silk dressed by Ernest Crosfield, "easily the best" in the art of fly making, prominently display the features of being slim, sloping wing, neat head, an abbreviated body and the minimum quantity of hackle. The wing is small, consisting of six different feathers (using the natural set of the selected feathers) and partly by tying in all but the brown mallard covering strip behind the throat of blue jay, in a small space between the throat and the remainder of the body. Crosfield's patterns typically, have wings and tail tips coinciding at a point not far behind the hook bend, and the hinder end of the tag is in front of the hook barb and usually in front of the point of the hook.

Crosfield considered it important to refrain from encroaching on the bend of the hook with any part of the dressing to avoid the risk of being chewed and damaged by the teeth of the fish after the hook had got hold. Practical and less aesthetically pleasing, Crosfield preferred to dress his flies on hooks with an eye (considered to

be more durable than a gut loop) and on a substantial hook with a wide gape in order to take a “good bite of meat.”

Notes on Tying Salmon Flies by ‘Poacher’ from *The Salmon and Trout Magazine* (January 1923). This article was written by Ernest Crosfield under his pen name ‘**Poacher.**’ *(Through the writings of others, the author has so far introduced us to Mr. Crosfield. Like today’s home improvement television programs, he is now ready to let the great man speak through his own writing and reveal the fly tying methods used to achieve the angling success for which he is known. This is the part of the book in which the reader learns how Mr. Crosfield dresses his favorite fly, **The Black Silk**).*

For spring fishing, the actual pattern of the fly or the method of tying does not matter too much. However, in the summer it is quite a different matter. This is the time when the usual shop-dressed fly fails. The ordinary fly tier as a rule uses far too much material, and consequently the fly, instead of being thin and transparent, is more or less opaque when held up to the light. Compare the photo on the right to the Jock Scott photo on the previous page.



Black Silk tied by Hunter Bachand shows the transparency of the wing.

Salmon are not necessarily attracted by all the fancy feathers and complicated dressings of traditional salmon flies. Rather, flies plainly dressed with a few inexpensive materials would probably kill just as well, or possibly better than most of the modern fancy patterns.

Hooks: Let me first of all say a few words about hooks. Anyone who has much experience of fishing knows that an old fly generally kills best. The reason is simple. After a certain amount of wear and tear much of the superfluous material gets worn away or bitten off by the teeth of the fish. The fly gradually becomes thinner and more transparent and therefore more attractive to the fish. Unfortunately, with continual use, the gut loop becomes more and more

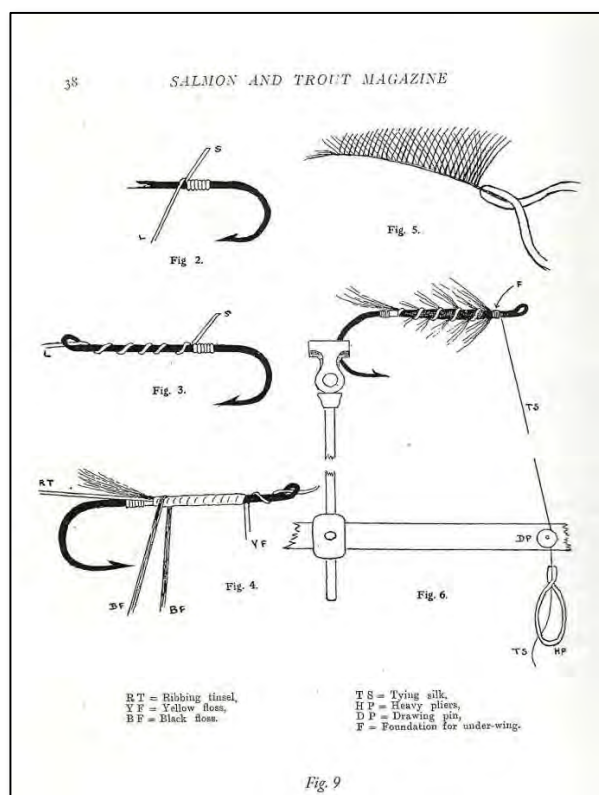
unreliable, and just when the fly is approaching a really useful stage, it has to be discarded. I know nothing more exasperating than to have to throw away a fly, which has proved to be a real killer, just because the gut eye can no longer be trusted. **A metal eye always remains strong and reliable.**

Vice or No Vice: I know that some fly tyers prefer to hold the hook in their hands when they are making a fly, but I always use a vice. If one fastens the tying silk to a heavy pair of pliers – it leaves both hands free. I find that I can tie flies more neatly, much more firmly and certainly more expeditiously with a vice than without one. There is no doubt that it is much easier for a beginner to learn to tie flies by using a vice.

The Black Silk

Tag: Silver twist and yellow floss.
Tail: A topping and a few strands of tippet.
Body: Black silk ribbed with oval silver.
Body-hackle: Bright claret.
Under-wing: Tippet strands. The point of a golden pheasant breast feather and one or two toppings. Each feather to be tied on separately so as to keep the wing as open and transparent as possible.
Throat-hackle: Blue jay.
Over-wing: About six strands from golden pheasant's tail and about two strands from Amherst pheasant's tail to be tied on together on left side, and the same again on the right side. Two narrow strips of dark mallard, one on top of the other, to be tied on together on the top as a covering for the whole wing. A *single* strip of mallard is one of the most difficult feathers to tie neatly on as wing, but if two narrow strips are placed one on top of the other before putting in position to tie in, they *sit* without any difficulty.

50



Tying Instructions

Editor's Note: Ernest Crosfield is known for tying the throat after the underwing, followed by the overwing in order to achieve a streamlined small head. Here, he will demonstrate how the body of his flies are tied without tying thread. Instead, he uses the tinsels and silk to bind down materials as needed and by using a vice, he attaches heavy pliers to materials as they reach the head of the fly.

Threadless Body: One of the steps that Crosfield uses to help him complete flies quickly, is that he will attach the tinsel for the tag to the hook without any thread and set aside a number of prepared hooks. He does this by holding the hook in his right hand and laying the tinsel next to the hook with his left hand and with a few quick twists the tinsel is attached, and the extra material is wound to the hook eye (remember he uses hooks with a metal eye). For small oval tinsels, he may also use the excess material to complete two half hitches. This excess material will be unwound later in the process and buried under the body of the fly. I tried this and found it interesting that tinsel could be attached to a hook without any thread. I recommend you give it a try.

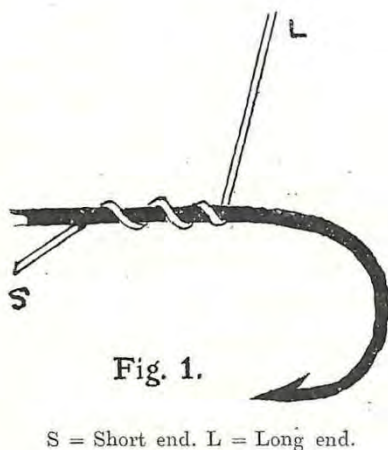
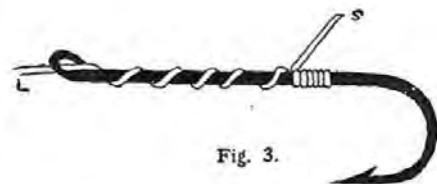
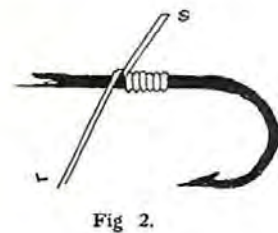
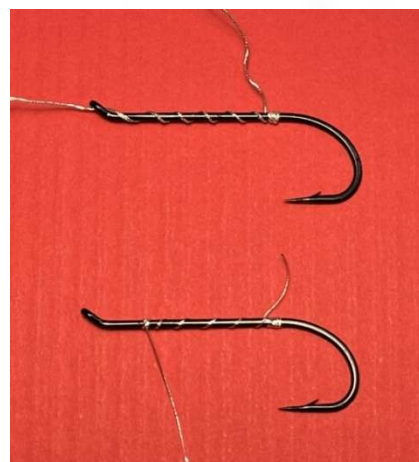


Fig. 8



After attaching the tinsel, I applied a small dab of flexament to the tinsel wraps to hold them in place.



Top hook has tinsel threaded through the eye and the tinsel on the lower hook has two half hitches before the return eye.

Tip and Tag: Cut off about 4 or 5 inches of silver twist, and taking the hook in the left hand, with the head to the left and the bend to the right, lay the twist along the shank of the hook, holding the short end with the left finger and thumb. Then, holding the long end with the right hand, take 2 or 3 open turns towards the bend until opposite the barb of the hook. Then make 6 turns of the long end towards the head of the hook as close together and as tight as possible so as to bind in the open turns. Now bend the short end of the twist back out of the way toward the bend of the hook. I then continue with the long end, taking 4 or 5 open, but always tight turns round the shank towards the eye and then pass the free end through the eye of the hook (see photo). I also then double back the tinsel and tie it off with two half hitches behind the eye (not shown).

I can't impress too strongly on my readers the great importance, both in making the tag and all other parts of the fly, of making each turn as tight as possible. The first turn of the twist nearest the bend of the hook should be exactly opposite the barb, and no nearer to the bend (*Note: In many of the diagrams and photos in this article, Crosfield often ties in a short tag opposite the hook point which looks appropriate with the corresponding short body*). In the same way, the tail and the wings should not project beyond the bend. Very many flies are dressed a size or two longer than the size of the hook, and this I believe is one of the causes of so many short-rising fish being missed. If I am going to make, as I usually do, several flies of the same pattern, I first complete this stage of the operation for all the flies which have to be tied.

I now take about 9 inches of yellow floss silk and split this into two lengths with a dubbing needle. I then fix the hook in the vice with the bend to the left and the head to the right. I now take 6 or 8 turns with the floss to form the rest of the tag and attach a heavy pair of pliers to the long end of the floss and allow them to hang down from the vice so as to keep it all tight. (*Note: I tried using one strand of the typical Japanese silk floss available today without splitting, but found that instead of half of one strand, I actually needed two strands to complete the remaining steps of the fly's construction*).

Tail: Tie in the tail with 2 turns of the yellow floss keeping all of the feathers on top of the hook (*Note: I found that keeping the tail feathers on top is much easier using floss instead of tying silk*). Now tie in the **ribbing tinsel**, which should be oval and not flat, with 2 or three turns of yellow floss. The tinsel should be tied in on the top of the shank next to the tail as shown in figure 4.

Body: Take a piece of black floss silk about 15 to 18 inches long and split into two lengths with the stiletto. Tie this on the hook about the middle of its length with 2 or 3 turns of yellow floss, then continue wrapping the yellow floss towards the head to about three-quarter of the length of the body (*Note: As I mentioned before, modern day Japanese silks are much thinner. I attached two 15 inch sections of black Japanese floss and bound down the tag ends under the yellow silk*). Fasten the end of the yellow floss in the heavy pliers, which should hang down to keep all taut. Wrap the right-hand end of the black floss over the yellow floss with flat even turns and fix to the end in the heavy pliers (*Note: I thought wrapping the yellow and black floss over the loose wraps of twist on the hook from the first step of putting the tag on without thread would be bumpy. However, what I found was that the two flosses weaved their way between the tinsel and the resulting body up to this point is remarkable smooth*). Unfasten the silver twist from the eye and unwind the loose coils back to the floss and cut off the ends of this and of the yellow floss (and also the short end of the twist by the tag) (*maybe this is why today we call a short remaining end of material the “tag end”*).

Take the other end of the black floss and wrap this in smooth even turns around the body towards the head. About one-quarter inch from the tag, use the black floss to tie in the tip of the **body hackle** (the hackle should be ‘turned’ or doubled first). Then continue wrapping the floss around the body towards the head (binding down the rest of the hackle tip), giving a slight taper down towards the head. If the body is made too thick at the head, it will make the wings cock up too much and will also render it more difficult to get a thin neat head. If a fly has a thick clumsy head, it will not ‘enter’ the water so well and will probably be more apt to ‘flare.’ Be careful to leave plenty of room for the head. I generally leave a *clear* space of 3/16 inch on a 1/0 hook and ¼ inch on a 5/0 hook between the end of the body and eye of the hook. It is better to have this space too long than too short. After the last turn of black silk is completed, fasten the floss in the pliers and tie in with waxed tying silk and cut off the loose ends.

Note: *The last step on the previous page is the first step in the construction of the fly that involves the use of tying silk/thread.*

Ribbing: Wrap the ribbing tinsel round the body in about 5 open turns, which must be tight. When the end of the body is reached, take 3 or 4 close turns with the tinsel, then secure the tinsel with 5 tight turns of tying silk just behind the close turns. Put the tying silk in a heavy pair of pliers (assuming you are not using a bobbin). Then unwind the tinsel back to where it is tied in and cut off the short end.

Note: *I can't tell you how many times my tinsel has come loose due to inadequately tying off the tinsel. Crosfield's technique of adding additional wraps of tinsel temporarily will undoubtedly save any fly tier the headache of loose tinsel wraps. This is especially so when counter wrapping ribbing for spey flies.*

It will be noticed that I have given no 'butt' to the fly. In my opinion, a butt is quite unnecessary and only an additional complication and difficulty. In all probability 'butts' were introduced originally to hide clumsy or thick places due to careless tying.

Body Hackle: Fasten the body hackle in a pair of light pliers and turn around the body as tightly as possible, each turn to be close behind every turn of the ribbing. Tie off with the tying silk, cut off the short end, and then take 6 tight turns of silk towards the head to form the foundation for the under-wing.



Under-Wing: Take 16 to 20 strands of tippet and 'square' the butt ends so that the 'business' ends in the wing are all of different lengths. Tie down on the top of the hook. Note that the tippet should not project beyond the tag. Tie in the golden pheasant breast feather with the tip of the feather projecting slightly beyond the tippet. In the same manner tie in one or two toppings. Don't cut off the short ends yet.

Throat Hackle: Tie in the point of the jay hackle close in front of the under-wing and take half a dozen turns of the tying silk towards the head. Now, cut off as closely as possible all of the projecting ends of the under-wing. Take 2 or 3 turns of the hackle and fasten with three turns of silk and cut off the short end.



Add 4 or 5 more turns of silk to form the foundation of the over-wing and press the jay hackles rearward. *Note: I first split the jay feather and cautiously cut away as much of the rachis as possible. The photo shows 2½ turns of hackle. One and ½ turns would likely look better, fish better, and aid in reducing the size of the head.*

Over-wing: Take 2 strips of 4 fibres each of golden pheasant (8 total fibres). Lay one set on top of the other. Add two fibres of Amherst pheasant tail fibres. These can be rolled together to prevent the fibres from marrying so as to keep the wing open and transparent. The one great objective of this method of fly-dressing is to keep the wing as translucent as possible. The usual practice of closely 'marrying' different feathers together in the wings of the salmon fly not only adds very much to one's difficulties, but also seriously interferes with the killing powers of the fly. Married wings are almost opaque. One can easily test the truth of this by holding an ordinary Jock Scott up to the light.



Now tie in one set of these fibres not quite on top of the hook but slightly on the near side, and then repeat the dose (a second set of 10 fibres) on the far side with the other set and cut the short ends.

Mallard Roof: Take 2 strips of dark (bronze) mallard about 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide, with the tips squared by pulling them off the feather to the side. Place one on top of the other and holding them together, tie them in on top of the hook so that half of them will be on each side of the feathers below. *(Note: When I use this method, I always place the mallard section with the most curve on top to help keep them both together).*

Finish off with the ordinary whip finish and give a touch of celluloid varnish.



The Black Silk by Hunter Bachand

Ernest Crosfield finishes his article with the following advice for the beginner:

1. **Wax your silk well.**
2. **See that each turn is absolutely firm and tight.**
3. **Don't overdress your fly, and particularly the wings. Try to keep the whole fly as open and transparent as possible.**
4. **Don't dress your fly too far down the hook.**
5. **Don't be afraid of cutting up a fly which is not perfectly satisfactory in every way.**



Fly Archive Report

Recent Additions to the Fly Archive



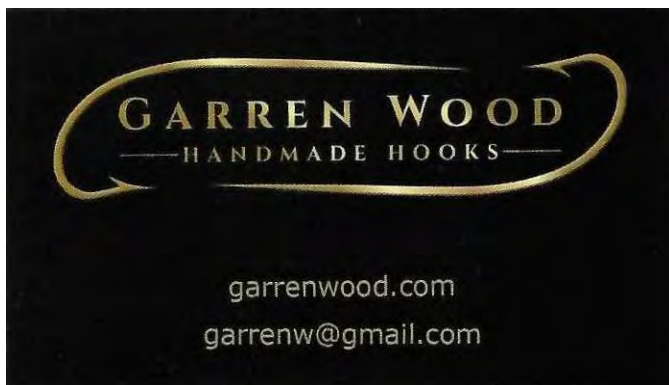
F. G. Morgan by Eric Foch



Black Doctor by Aaron Culley

Last Cast

Sources of Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Essentials



Contact Alberto Calzolari

www.54deanstreet.com

+39 377 4782415

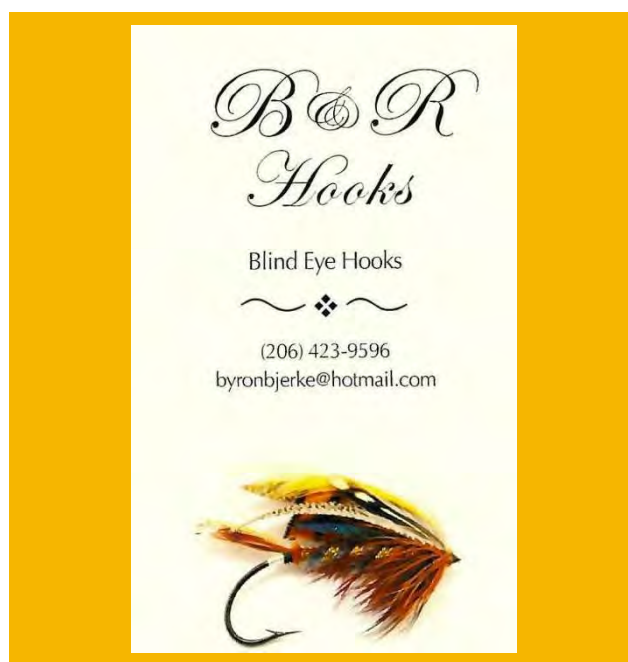
FeathersMC

***Supplier of Classic Atlantic
Salmon Fly Tying Materials***

FeathersMC is moving from
Michigan to New York

John and Terry expect operations to
be disrupted until August

Visit their website
www.FeathersMc.com
for more information



***Supplier of Fly-Tying and Fly Fishing
Books***

Contact Paul Morgan

www.anglebooks.com

+44 1654 702837



Contact Steve Cooper

www.cookshill-flytying.co.uk

+44 1782 388382



Contact Ben Gehrke

ATLANTIC **SALMON**

 ASF | WILD SALMON | WILD RIVERS

JOURNAL