

Fly of the Month: Floss Body Template

Hook: Steelhead hook
Body: 4 strand nylon floss
Wing: Black bear or Kip tail
Hackle: Dyed guinea and saddle hackle
Ribbing: Oval tinsel
Thread: Black

~ This month I just wanted to lay out a hair wing fly template. This is just the basic construction of a hair wing fly that you could use in a low clear water situation this winter for steelhead. If you find yourself standing in the middle of the river staring at your fly box this winter, and the water is clear and low, pass up all those monstrous articulated bunny leeches and voluptuous marabou spiders, and tie on a simple dark, sleek hair wing. Sometimes bigger isn't better.

I tied the particular fly that is shown with a florescent red body and a highland green guinea hackle. I also tie this "style" of fly in black, purple, red, with black, brown, and white wings. The point is, you can tie it in many colors, and give yourself an arsenal on the water to tackle various light conditions.

I will highlight the most challenging part of this fly...the body.

Floss bodies have a reputation for being unforgiving because there isn't much there to hide your mistakes. Here are a few tricks to getting an even and smooth fly body.

1. Plan ahead. - Make sure that when you tie in your tail and your ribbing, you anchor the material down the entire length that your floss will be covering. This will reduce any unevenness.

2. Pay attention to every thread wrap. - This may sound a little tedious but it really isn't that bad. Being meticulous about where you wrap your thread goes a long way towards the finished product.
3. It's a wrap. - Start your floss where your wing would be anchored. Then wrap back towards the bend of the hook. Then change directions, making a double layer of floss. If you want a tapered profile, change directions again but only go halfway down the shaft, change directions again. Repeat this, but only go half the distance of your last trip down the shaft until you are back to the starting point. This makes a very uniform and smooth taper to your floss body

When the conditions call for a small steelhead fly, I get giddy. There is just something about fishing a sleek floss body fly, whether it be the appeal of getting back to a more classic approach, or the allure of a wary steelhead taking a beautiful fly on that perfect swing.

Tight lines.

