

The Traditional Spider Patterns/Recipes



Waterhen Bloat

There are literally dozens of different spider pattern fishing flies. Here are a few of the ones I regularly use on the Wharfe at Bolton Abbey , The Aire below Malham and the Ribble at Paythorne. Threads should be pearsalls silk where ever possible. Remember these flies should be dressed sparsely no more than two turns of hackle tied in by the tip. Body length for the Yorkshire style of tying is to tie a body no further back than the barb of the hook. Many stop no further than the point. There used to be a good set of instructions for tying Yorkshire flies at Mike Connors web site. But Mikes site is "off the air" at the moment. Mike was kind enough to give me some images for this site.

[A complete list of Pritts Flies](#)

[List of Flies from Edmonds and Lee](#)

[HOME](#)

My Favorites Below

[WOODCOCK FLIES](#)

[SNIPE FLIES](#)

[PARTRIDGE FLIES](#)

[WATERHEN FLIES](#)

[COOT FLIES](#)

[STARLING FLIES](#)

[POULTRY FLIES](#)

[GROUSE FLIES](#)

Woodcock and Hare's Lug Spider

HOOK 14

THREAD Primrose Yellow

BODY Dark hares ear spun on the Primrose silk. Pick fibres out with dubbing needle so they merge into the hackle

HACKLE A feather from under coverts of the woodcock

Early Brown

HOOK: 18-14

THREAD: Waxed Orange

BODY: Waxed Orange silk very lightly dubbed with red- brown wool

HACKLE: A small barred Woodcock under covert feather

HEAD: Peacock Herl

Old Master

HOOK: 16 or 14

THREAD: Ash or pale Grey

BODY: Ash coloured silk (pearsalls number 10) wrapped with open turns of Heron Herl or Heron Substitute

HACKLE: Woodcock under covert

[Return to INDEX](#)



Snipe and purple

Snipe and Purple

HOOK: 18 or 16 or 14

THREAD: Unwaxed purple Pearsalls gossamer

BODY: Either tying silk or purple floss silk (I use tying silk)

HACKLE : spoon shaped feather from snipe marginal coverts a nice dark feather

Snipe and Yellow

HOOK: 16,14

THREAD: Primrose Silk

BODY: Primrose silk or pale yellow floss silk

HACKLE: A lighter marginal covert snipe feather

Snipe Bloa

Snipe Bloa

HOOK: 16,14

THREAD: straw silk

BODY: straw coloured silk thread

HACKLE: bloa feather (pale bluey grey) from snipe under covert without much white

[Return to INDEX](#)

Partridge and Orange



Partridge and Orange

HOOK 16 or 14

THREAD: pearsalls orange silk

BODY orange tying silk (some recommend an orange floss some give fine gold wire rib)

HACKLE: Brown partridge back feather

Crimson Partridge

HOOK : 16 or 14

THREAD: Crimson pearsalls silk

BODY: Tying thread (some use crimson wool)

HACKLE: Brown Partridge Back feather

Green Partridge

HOOK: 16 or 14

THREAD: Green silk

BODY: green wool ribbed with gold wire. (I simply use tying thread and no rib. Its still deadly!)

HACKLE: Brown partridge back

[Return to INDEX](#)

Waterhen Bloa



Waterhen Bloa

HOOK: 18 to 14

THREAD: Primrose yellow lightly waxed

BODY: Primrose yellow silk lightly dubbed with mole or a mixture of blue rabbit under fur and mole. The silk should shine through the dubbing. Oliver Edwards describes it as a mist of dubbing.

HACKLE: Feather from the marginal coverts of a waterhens wing

Waterhen and Red

HOOK: 18 to 14

THREAD: crimson

BODY: crimson tying silk

HACKLE: Feather from marginal covert of waterhen wing

Head: Optional. Peacock Herl

Dark Drake

HOOK: 18,16,14

THREAD: Orange silk

BODY: Waxed silk lightly dubbed with mole so silk shines through. Small dubbed thorax

HACKLE: Small dark feather from bow of waterhen wing

[Return to INDEX](#)

Dark Watchet



HOOK: 18 or 16

THREAD: Orange or Purple

BODY: Orange and Purple silk twisted together and lightly dubbed with mole. More simply a purple under body ribbed with orange silk dubbed lightly with mole. Both orange and purple should shine through the dubbing

HACKLE: Coot or Jackdaw neck

[Return to INDEX](#)

Starling Bloa

HOOK: 18,16,14

THREAD: Primrose or Straw

BODY: Tying Silk. Some use white silk for body. Some dub small thorax of very pale hares ear

HACKLE: Pale starling under covert

Baille's Black Spider

HOOK: 16,14

THREAD: Brown silk waxed till almost black

BODY: As Thread

HACKLE: Glossy purple black or green black feather from starlings neck. Hackle is wound palmered half way around the body

[Return to INDEX](#)

Greenwell Spider

HOOK: 16,14,12

THREAD: Primrose Yellow Silk

BODY: Tying silk heavily waxed to an olive yellow shade ribbed with fine gold wire

HACKLE: Two turns of greenwell hen. Furnace hen also used sometimes

Red Tag

HOOK: 16, 14, 12

THREAD: Black

BODY: Peacock Herl

HACKLE: dark Ginger Hen

TAG: red wool

Treacle Parkin

HOOK: 16, 14, 12

THREAD: Black

BODY: Peacock Herl

HACKLE: dark Ginger Hen

TAG: yellow or orange wool

Dark Spanish Needle



Dark Spanish Needle

HOOK: 16,14

THREAD: Orange waxed until almost brown

BODY: tying silk

HACKLE: dark brown hen

HEAD: Peacock Herl

[Return to INDEX](#)

Poult Bloa

HOOK: 16

THREAD: Primrose Yellow

BODY: Waxed yellow silk lightly dubbed with red squirrel fur. Yellow should shine through.

HACKLE: bloa (slatey, grey bluey) feather from under coverts of young grouse. A difficult feather to get hold of as it must come from a very young bird.

Dark Grouse

HOOK: 16 or 14

THREAD : Brown Silk

BODY: Thread waxed till almost black

HACKLE: Dark freckled feather from marginal coverts of a dark grouse wing

Head : Optional Peacock Herl

Grouse Series (Green Grouse, Orange Grouse, Red Grouse, Yellow Grouse)

HOOK: 16,14

THREAD: Green,Orange,Red,or Yellow depending on Fly being tied

BODY: Floss silk or tying silk in appropriate colour. A thorax of peacock herl may sometimes be added

HACKLE: Small reddy browny marginal covert feather

[Return to INDEX](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

[Home](#)