

Canterbury Fly Fishing Club

Tip and Tie Sessions : Variants add the spice ...

Background notes on some members' favourite fly patterns, how to tie them and tips on how to use them.¹

'That fly' or the TC Special

This uncomplicated pattern was first introduced to CFFC members in a fly tying demonstration by club stalwart Tony Calder. It was described then simply as 'That Fly'. Members who tied it for themselves enjoyed considerable success with it, especially on Canterbury and West Coast Lakes. For them the pattern is now known, more affectionately, as the *Tony Calder Special* or *TC Special*. It's not entirely clear what the fish take it for but the smart money would be on a damsel nymph or a dragonfly nymph in the larger hook sizes. The history of this pattern is also somewhat vague. The nearest to finding anything quite like it would be a UK pattern known as a "*Green Pea*". This has a similar black and fluoro-green colour combination and a mobile, marabou, tail. Regardless of *That Fly's* pedigree it is without doubt a very effective pattern. Try to restrain any urge to complicate the pattern (one urge of which this author was initially found guilty). This is definitely one of those flies where "less is more".

Hook : size 8 - 12 long shank e.g. Kamasan B830 Trout Classic Lure Long **Thread** : Black **Tail** : Black hair or fur – e.g. squirrel, calf tail or possum tail
Rib : Chartreuse UV Straggle Extra Fine **Body** : Ultra Chenille Micro Fluorescent Chartreuse (or Caddis Green for a somewhat more subdued effect)
underbody of lead wire for weighted versions **Hackle** : Green Dyed Hungarian Partridge

Tying Tips : After tying in the hair at the tail put a few turns of thread only around the material itself not the hook at the bend. This can help prevent 'wrapping' of the tail. The body tying sequence can be streamlined by twisting the micro chenille and UV Straggle materials together and winding on both at once. Worth tying up in both weighted and unweighted versions. Colour code using different colour silks for the head.

Where, when and how to fish : I've only fished it as lake fly but it wouldn't surprise me to learn that it can also be effective on rivers, especially in backwaters. Effective all year but especially good over the Summer on waters with lots of damselfly nymphs or dragonflies. Fishes well also as part of a two or three fly team fished 'blind'. I like it as a middle fly in a three fly set up. Also good as an 'ambush' fly and when cast to fish spotted cruising the shallows.

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¹ *Acknowledgement: This approach to fly tying sequences with background notes and hints on usage was heavily influenced by a series of booklets entitled "Flies for All Seasons" published by "Trout and Salmon" a UK based magazine.*

TC Special : Tying Sequence



For weighted versions (optional) apply turns of lead wire over a tying silk bed



Tie in a black squirrel, calf or possum tail above the hook gape. Take a few turns of silk around the tail alone to help prevent 'wrap'.



For a more mobile tail also tie in a bunch of finer material such as Arctic Fox just above the tail proper (optional).



Tie in a 50 – 60 mm piece of Ultra Chenille for the body and a similar length of the UV Straggle to use as ribbing.



Wind on the chenille body and follow with the 'UV straggle' as a rib. Remove tag ends.



Tie in a dyed green Hungarian partridge feather by its stalk.



Using hackle pliers wind on a few turns of hackle.



Stroke hackle fibres backward. Form a neat head. Whip finish and varnish.

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