

Canterbury Fly Fishing Club

Tip and Tie Sessions

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

Blow Fly Variants

Blowflies are widespread in South Island and relatively common over much of the year around the high country lakes and are a significant food item for trout. Blow fly patterns tied conventionally with shiny tinsel bodies and 'Wolff style' split calf-tail wings work well a lot of the time on the high-country lakes. Generally, fish tend not to be too selective in such lakes. They can't afford to be! As the season progresses, however, some of us find that the fish – browns especially – will examine these very shiny offerings more closely and will refuse them or even be spooked by them. So, we have taken to tying up variants with more subdued (but still sparkly) bodies and with wings tied 'spent' rather than upright. The tying or dressing to be demonstrated is but one such variant and the tie is summarised below:

Hook : size 10 – 14 dry fly **Thread** : Black **Tail** : Deer Hair **Rib** : Fine oval gold or silver tinsel **Body** : Veniard 'glister sparkle' dubbing – peacock black with black thin (2 mm)_fly foam tied over **Wings** : White calf or kip tail tied 'spent'.

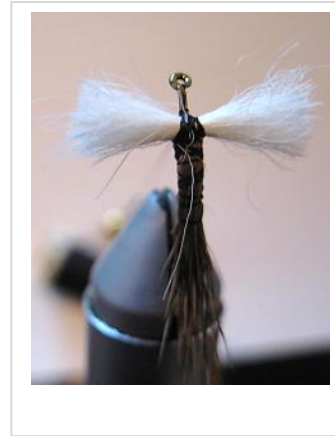


¹ Acknowledgement: This approach to fly tying sequences with background notes and hints on usage was heavily influenced by a series of booklets entitled "Flies for All Seasons" published by "Trout and Salmon" a UK based magazine.

Blow Fly Variant : Tying Sequence



Deer hair tail tied in using early loose turns of silk to avoid flaring



Calf tail tied in and fixed with figure of eight turns of silk

Trimmed black foam is tied in above the deer hair tail. Oval gold or silver tinsel also tied in at the base of the tail. See right:





Dubbing applied and underbody wound on.



Ribbing applied to dubbed underbody. Trim off tinsel tag end.



Foam brought over dubbed underbody. A few tight turns of silk are applied behind the wings to form an abdominal shape. Foam tied in just behind eye and trimmed. Whip finish and varnish.



Finished fly.



Finished fly - underside.