

The Alexandra

By Derek Young

A great, traditional, attractor pattern. Originally known as the Lady of the Lake and re-named in honour of Queen Alexandra whilst she was still a princess of Denmark in the 1860s.

It can be used for both sewin (sea trout) or in smaller sizes for browns and rainbow trout.

Once it was so successful its use was banned on certain waters but its popularity has now declined.

By varying the retrieve – a slow-slow, quick-quick, slow – the fly darts and stops as a minnow would in the water.



Dressing

Hook	Down eye wet size 8 to 12 (Kamasan B175)	Hackle	Black Hen or Black Cock if Hen is unobtainable.
Thread	Black tying thread 6 ought or 8 ought	Wing	Green Peacock Swords fibres 5 or 6 to suit
Tail	Red Ibis substitute such as Red Swan or Red Goose Feather. A variant is Red Marabou.	Cheeks	Red Ibis substitute Red Swan or Red Goose. A variant is Jungle Cock.
Body	Flat Silver Tinsel (or Mylar)	Head	Black tying thread – varnished
Rib 1	Fine Silver Wire or Oval Silver Tinsel		



Step 1

Fit hook into vice (ping it) and catch on black thread.



Run thread down hook shank, in touching turns, to a point above and half way between the hook point and hook barb.



Step 2

Using pinch and loop technique catch in 4-5 fibres of Red feather to form a short tail.



Bind down to form an even underbody up to a short distance from eye.



And trim the butts.



Step 3

Catch in ribbing material (fine silver wire) UNDER the hook shank.



Bind down to rear keeping ribbing material underneath the hook.



Then return thread to eye.



Step 4
Cut a point to the tinsel –



and tie in at the eye.



Wind tinsel down the hook shank –



and maintaining tension, back up again to eye.
Secure and trim excess.

Tip – it makes body more secure by coating thread with varnish or superglue before winding the tinsel.



Step 5

Counter wrap the tinsel body in even, open, spaced turns with the ribbing material (Fine Silver Wire).
Secure and trim excess.

It is advisable to put in a half-hitch or whip finish here to stop wire un-winding.



Step 6

Prepare the Hen hackle to form a comb as this aids tying in.



And catch in.



Wind hackle, 3 to 5 times or as required, to form a collar.



Secure and trim excess.

Tip – trim some of the fibres off the top of the hackle as this will allow the wing to sit correctly.



Step 7

Tie in a SMALL quantity of herl from the peacock swords feathers to form a wing.

Secure and trim excess.



Step 8

Tie in 2 matching strips of Red feather fibres, one each side, to form cheeks.



Trim excess butts close to form a neat head.



Whip finish to secure, remove thread and varnish the head.

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The finished fly –



and the other side.

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