

Black Magic

By Derek Young

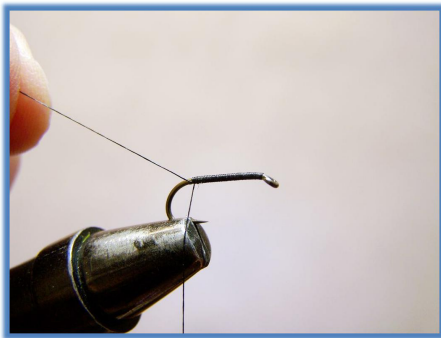
An excellent general purpose fly, believed to have been devised by Frederick Mould, when anything small and dark is hatching.

It can be fished on both rivers and still-waters and represents any small black terrestrial.



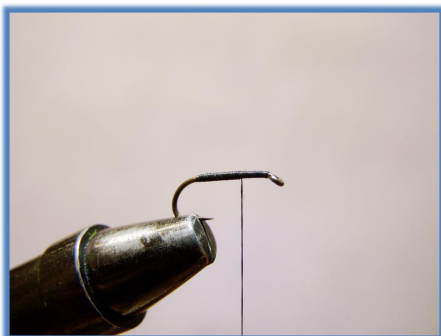
Dressing

Hook	Wet fly size 14 to 18	Thorax	Bronze Peacock herl
Thread	Black 8/0 UNI-Thread	Under Thorax (optional)	Fine copper wire
Body	Tying thread	Hackle	Black Hen Hackle (2 or 3 turns)
		Head	Tying thread
			Whip finish and varnish



Step 1

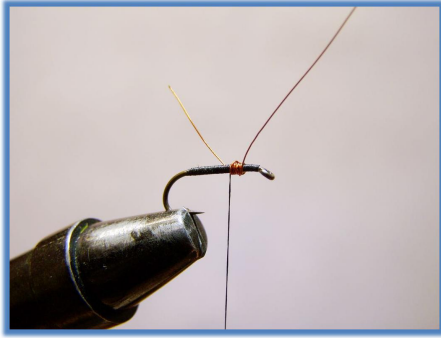
Set hook in vice, (ping it), catch on tying thread at eye and run thread down hook shank, in touching turns, to a point above and half way between the hook point and barb.



Step 2

Remove excess tag of tying thread and return thread, using touching turns, up to thorax area.

(Option: using open turns gives a slight segmented effect.)



Step 3

Using 3 inches of fine copper wire wind a “ball” of wire at the thorax area.



Step 4

Wind thread forward and back over wire ball and keeping thread and bobbin taught, agitate both ends of wire till they snap off.

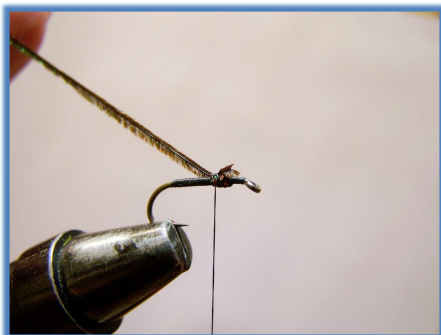
(This will preserve the life of your expensive scissors.)



Step 5

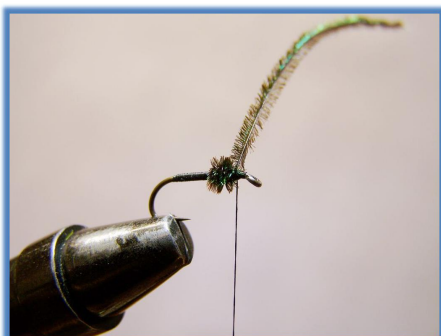
Prepare a peacock herl by gripping the herl between thumb and forefinger and, with slight tension, run fingers down the herl till it snaps.

(This is the weak point on the herl.)



Step 6

Tie in the herl at its weak point at the rear of the thorax using the “pinch & loop” technique.



Step 7

Advance tying thread to front of thorax and wind the peacock herl forwards to cover the wire ball.



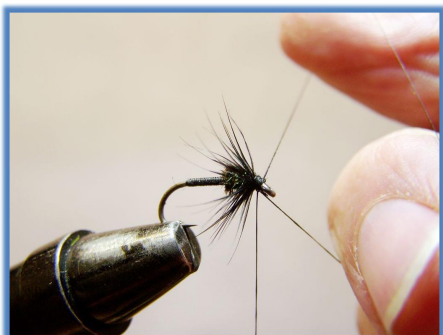
Step 8

Prepare a black HEN hackle by grasping the tip and folding the fibres backwards (like a V) ...



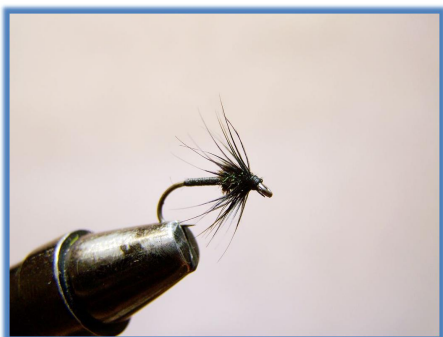
Step 9

... then remove the waste peacock herl and tie in the hen hackle.



Step 10

Advance tying thread to eye and, using hackle pliers, wind the hackle forward to eye, secure and whip finish.



Step 11

Remove the tying thread and add a touch of varnish to wraps.



The Finished Fly

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