

Soldier Palmer

By Derek Young

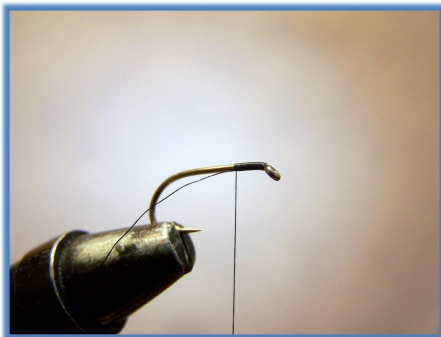
The origin of this fly goes back centuries – perhaps the name came from the old English Red Coat soldier?

Although a classic wet fly, it can also be fished as a dry, most commonly on the top dropper in a team of two or three wet flies, where the bushy palmered body creates an attractive disturbance or wake on the surface.



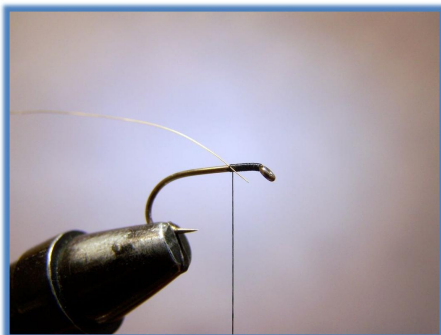
Dressing

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------|--|
| Hook | Size 8 to 14 medium wet fly hook | Rib | Fine gold or silver wire (or tinsel) |
| Thread | Black, red or brown 6/0 or 8/0 Uni Thread | Head & Body Hackle | Palmered medium natural red game cock hackle |
| Tail | Scarlet red wool or floss | | |
| Body | Scarlet red wool/dubbing or seal's fur | Head | Tying thread Whip finish and varnish |



Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it) and catch on the tying thread (about 10 turns) then remove waste tag.



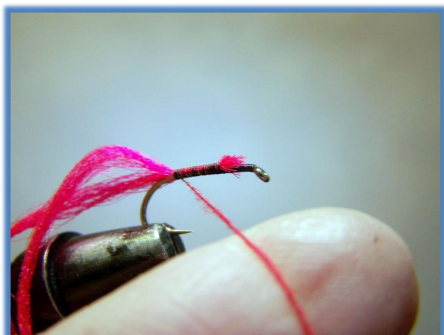
Step 2

Catch in 3 inches of fine gold wire ...



Step 3

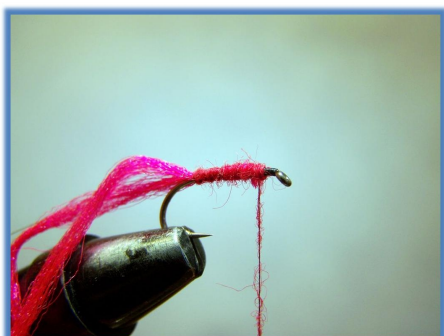
... and at the same point (using the 'pinch and loop' technique) catch in two strands of scarlet red Antron body yarn, floss or red wool. Pull down and back to the tie in point (or trim excess).



Step 4

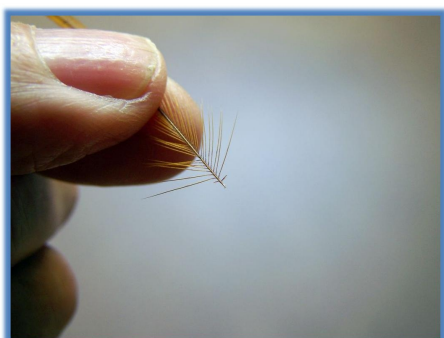
Bind both the wool/floss and fine gold wire to the hook shank, down to bend, to a point above and halfway between hook point and barb. Dub the red wool dubbing (or red seals fur) onto the tying thread.

Note: Some tie in an extra strand of red wool and wrap up hook shank instead of using dubbing.



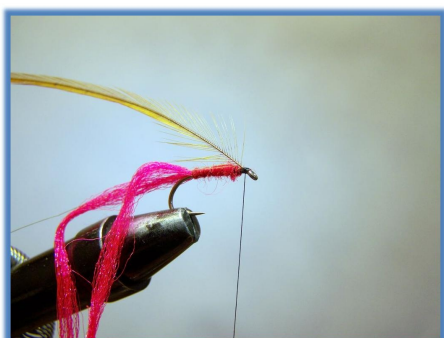
Step 5

Wind the dubbing up hook shank, using touching or overlapping turns, to create the body.



Step 6

Prepare a natural red game cock hackle ...



Step 7

... and tie the stalk in at the eye. Leave tying thread in this position.



Step 8

Trim tail to desired length, whilst avoiding cutting the wire!

Note: I prefer it slightly past the bend of the hook.



Step 9

Wind cock hackle towards you, 2 or 3 turns at the head then continue with OPEN TURNS down the body to the tail.

(If using a short hackle grip it with a hackle pliers.)

Hold the excess hackle verticle at the tail, come across it with the fine gold wire, to hold it in place, then wind the wire in OPEN turns up the body to the eye, taking care not to trap too many of the cock hackle fibres.

Catch in the wire with tying thread and secure.

Tip: Wiggle/wobble the wire as you go, this helps to avoid trapping the hackle fibres.



Step 10

Wiggle/agitate the wire till it snaps.

(Don't cut the wire with your expensive scissors as this will damage them.)



Step 11

Form a neat head and whip finish.



Step 12

Remove tying thread, trim excess palmered hackle at the tail and add a touch of varnish to the head.



The Finished Fly

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