

Steve Skuce Mayfly (May Franglais)

By Derek Young (and with kind permission of Steve Skuce)

This is Steve Skuce's own version of the French Partridge Mayfly and is his "go to" fly whenever there is a mayfly hatch in progress in late May or even June.

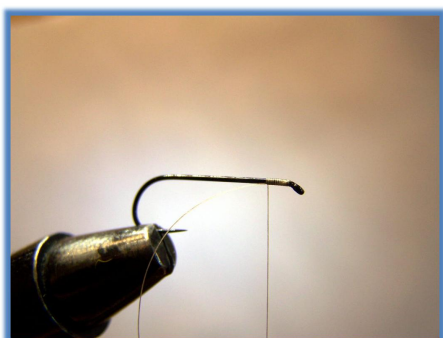
The exact material list and tying instructions can be found on pages 96 to 99 in his book "Grayling Flies".

Fish it on its own on a long leader with a floating line, either static or "twitched" back slowly.



Dressing

Hook	Long shank, lightweight dry fly hook, size 10 or 12 <i>Steve always uses Grip 11801BL for this pattern which are light, barbless and very strong.</i>	Abdomen Hackle Cree, honey dun or ginger (very short in the flue) ie. A hackle suitable for a size 18 to 20 fly, palmered along the body/abdomen. A saddle hackle is best.
Thread	Brown or Tan	Stiff/Supporting Hackle Cree, honey dun or ginger (larger in the flue). ie A hackle suitable for a size 12 to 14.
Tail	6 x fibres cock pheasant centre tail	Used behind the partridge to support/ stiffen it and give it a "kick".
Abdomen	Fly-rite fine cream dubbing (No 12 or 25)	Main Hackle Flank feather from a French (red legged) partridge. If not available use a flank feather from an English or gray partridge (known in USA as a Hungarian partridge).
Thorax	Fly-rite fine brown dubbing (No 6 or 42)	



Step 1

Set a Grip 11801BL, size 10 or 12, in the vice, "ping" it and catch on the brown or tan tying thread.



Step 2

Run tying thread down to bend, using touching turns. Remove the waste tag of thread and tie in 6 cock pheasant centre tail fibres. Make the tail about same length as the hook shank.



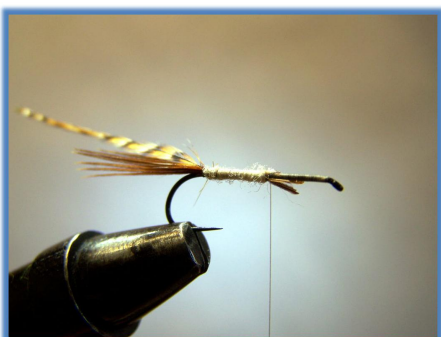
Step 3

Tie in the cree, honey dun or ginger saddle hackle.



Step 4

Dub a thin nodule of the fine cream dubbing onto tying thread ...



Step 5

... and create the abdomen. Remove the waste dubbing and leave the tying thread at the edge of the abdomen.



Step 6

Palmer/wind the abdomen hackle up to the tying thread in even, open turns and secure.



Step 7

Remove the waste palmer hackle and tie in the larger, stiff, thorax hackle at the end of the abdomen.



Step 8

Dub a thin nodule of fine brown dubbing onto the tying thread ...



Step 9

... and create the thorax, finishing about one eighth of an inch short of the eye, then secure.



Step 10

Remove the waste dubbing and wind the stiff hackle over the thorax for 2 or 3 turns.



Step 11

Secure and remove the waste.



Step 12

Prepare French (or English) partridge hackle by first removing the fluff at the base.

Holding the feather by its tip and, from about a quarter of an inch from its tip, stroke the fibres back to create a "V" shape.



Step 13

Tie in the prepared hackle by its tip where the "V" is joined to the main feather.



Step 14

After removing the trapped down "tips" advance the tying thread to eye.

Folding back the partridge make a couple of turns.



Step 15

Tie off, secure and remove the waste.



Step 16

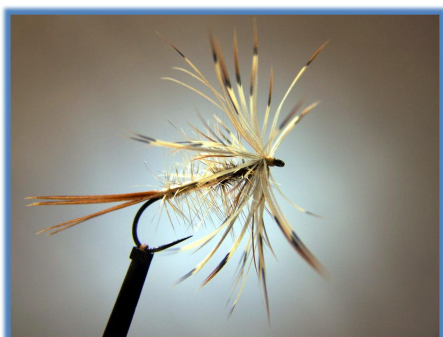
Create a small, neat head and whip finish.



Step 17

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

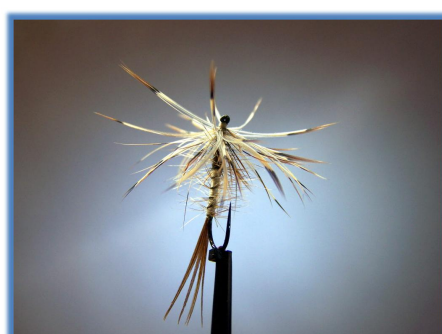
To enable the fly to sit well and offer a good profile to the fish, gently stroke both the stiff and partridge hackles a little bit forwards as shown.



The Finished Fly



Front view



View from below

What the trout and grayling see!

Note

I would like to thank Steve for allowing his fly to be showcased. I'm really looking forward to seeing his new "Ginger May" which he started developing in May 2017 – it has already caught both browns and grayling.

Steve's book "Grayling Flies" includes 70 grayling fly patterns and can be obtained from:
Coch-y-Bonddu Books Ltd, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8 DG (United Kingdom)
at a cost of £19.95 plus P&P. Tel. 01654 702837 or www.anglebooks.com

Alternatively, Steve has a limited stock he sells at his demonstrations and can be contacted at:
steve.skuce@gmail.com

Once again, many thanks to Steve for such a great book and allowing us to share his pattern.