

# Black Gnat

By Derek Young

*A terrestrial of the family Bibionidae, in the flat winged Diptera order, Bibio johannis is the most common and appears around mid-May.*

*The females are dark olive brown in colour and are slightly larger than the males which are nearly black. Both feature highly in the diet of trout.*

*I prefer to fish this fly as a single fly on the point and simply leave it to drift in the surface film.*

*The double or mating pattern is useful if swarms of paired gnats are in evidence.*



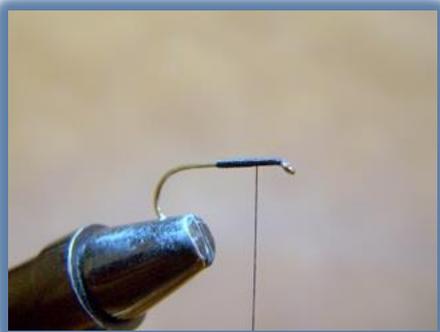
## Dressing

Hook	Dry fly (light wire) Kamasan B400 Size 12 to 22	Wing	Paired slips of grey mallard wing quill (primaries) (My favourite pattern has no rib and white Antron yarn tied low over the back instead of mallard and is much quicker to tie.)
Thread	Black 6 Ought Uni thread	Hackle	Black cock hackle
Tail	Black cock hackle fibres (Note original tying has no tail)	Head	Tying thread whip finished and varnished
Body	Black 6 Ought Uni thread (However some tiers use black superfine dubbing /black seals fur or black floss.)	Note	<i>John Goddard's pattern uses a dozen strands of rainbow Krystal flash sloping over the body. Another friend's pattern uses a white turkey biot, tied flat behind the thorax, with the convex side uppermost.</i>
Rib 1	Fine flat/oval silver tinsel		



### Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it) and catch on tying thread, winding, in touching turns, down the hook shank to half way.



Then wind thread back up hook shank, towards eye, to quarter of way.



**Step 2**

Prepare two matching mallard slips (facing forward) with length to be same as body. Square them up slightly.



**Step 3**

Using pinch and loop technique, with 2 loose turns of tying thread, slowly pull thread down vertically to hold slips in place.



**Step 4**

Pull slips backwards and fold waste forward either side of wings.

*Tip : I use a couple of waste fibres to pull forward THROUGH the centre, between the wings, to help separate them, as well as pulling waste either side.*



**Step 5**

Secure with two wraps of thread and remove waste.



**Step 6**

Wind thread behind wing and continue down shank, in touching turns, to bend.



**Step 7**

Catch in 5 or 6 cock hackle fibres and 3 inches of fine flat/oval silver tinsel.



**Step 8**

Wind tying thread, in touching turns, up hook shank towards eye, to form body while binding down hackle fibres and excess tinsel.



**Step 9**

Wind fine flat/oval tinsel in open turns, in opposite direction to tying thread, up to wing. Secure and remove waste.



**Step 10**

Prepare the cock hackle ...



and catch in behind wing with the shiny side facing you.  
Secure and trim waste.



**Step 11**  
Wind hackle twice behind and three times in front of wing and secure.



**Step 12**  
Remove excess stalk, form neat head, whip finish and varnish head.



*The Finished Fly*



*Front View*



*Rear View*



***The Finished Fly – other side***



***Mating or paired black gnat pattern  
(Wings and rib are omitted)***



***My favourite pattern***



***Turkey biot pattern***

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