

Corixa

By Derek Young

The Corixa, commonly called the lesser water boatman, is a small aquatic insect feeding on algae and vegetable matter and can be seen swimming to the surface to gather air, trapping it between its wings and body. They are very capable fliers and also good swimmers.

(Of the order Hemiptera, those of most interest to the fly fisherman are the Notonectidae and the Corixidae.)

They are found mainly in shallow water especially near weed beds in still-waters ranging from small ponds to reservoirs.

There are quite a few different variants of this fly – see pages 131 to 135 of “Tying and fishing the nymph” by Taff Price.

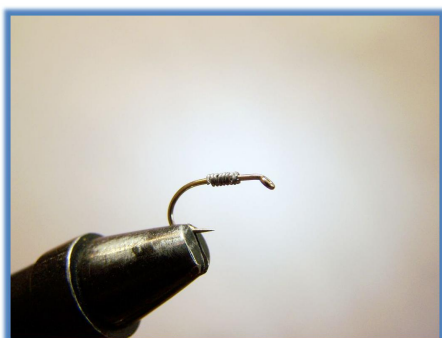
An extremely realistic pattern is Bob Carnill's. This and other artificials incorporating a flash of silver (eg as a tag) in the dressing to represent the air bubble held under the wings are often more successful than those without. They are most effective during August and September.

Fish it “sink and draw” on a floating line, copying the movement of the natural.



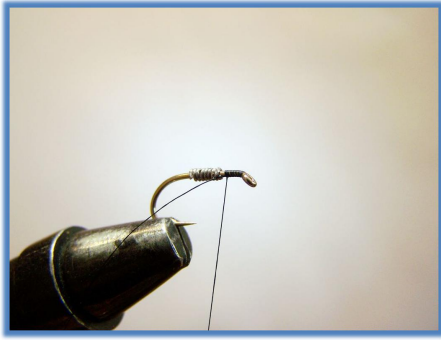
Dressing

Hook	Kamasan B175 (Wet fly) size 12 to 16	Rib	Oval silver tinsel
Thread	Black (some tiers use brown or red)		(some use brown cotton)
Tag	Flat silver tinsel	Wingcase	Cock pheasant centre tail fibres (or brown raffia)
Under Body	Fine lead wire	Throat Hackle	6 x grouse hackle fibres or brown hen (optional)
Body	White floss or white wool (some use cream floss/wool)	Head	Black (or brown) tying thread

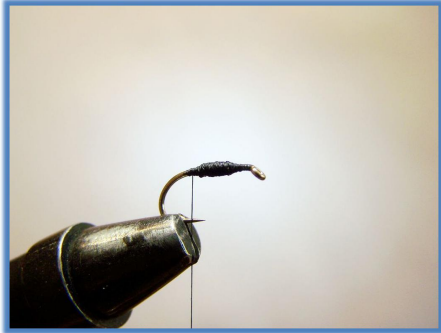


Step 1

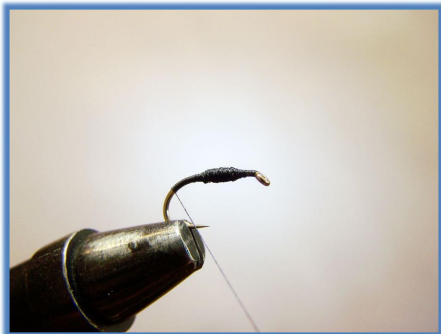
Set hook in vice (ping it) and wind on 1” or approx 8 turns of fine lead wire.



Step 2
Catch on black tying thread ...



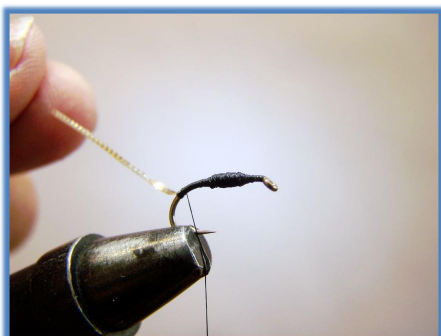
Step 3
... and cover lead wire.



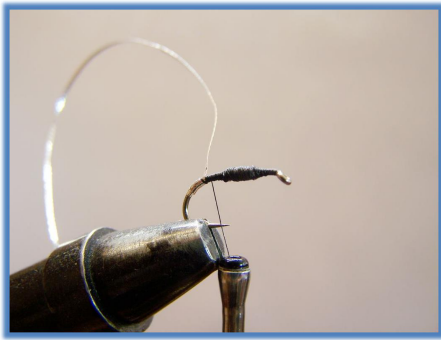
Step 4
Continue thread down hook shank and around the bend.



Step 5
Prepare flat silver tinsel (by cutting to a point, at an angle, right to left) ...



Step 6
... and catch it onto hook shank ...



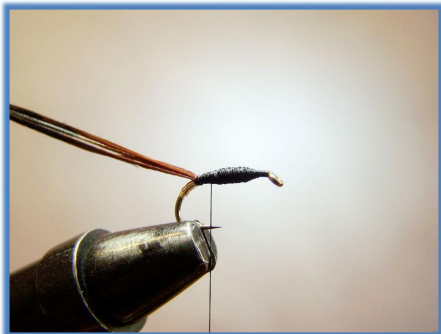
Step 7

... winding 3 x touching turns of tinsel around hook shank ...



Step 8

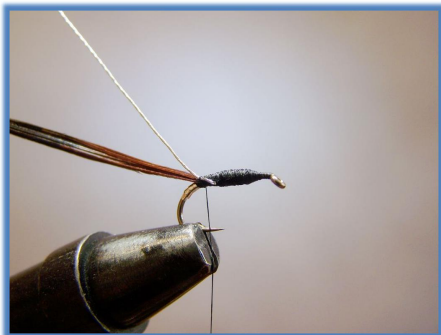
... secure and remove excess tinsel.



Step 9

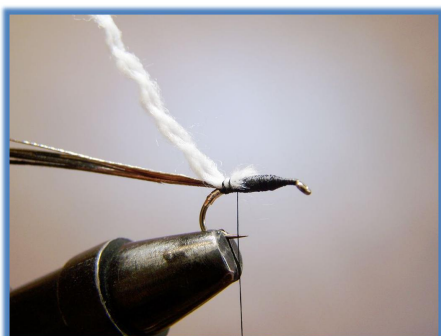
Tie in a bunch of 10 to 12 cock pheasant tail fibres and shape the body with tying thread.

Tip: Cut off the tips to butt up to the wire under body.



Step 10

Return tying thread to tie in point of cock pheasant tail fibres and secure the fine oval silver tinsel.



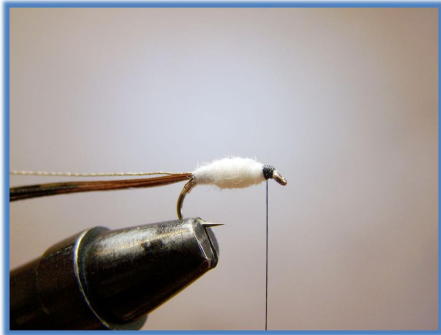
Step 11

Tie in 6" of white wool (or floss) ...



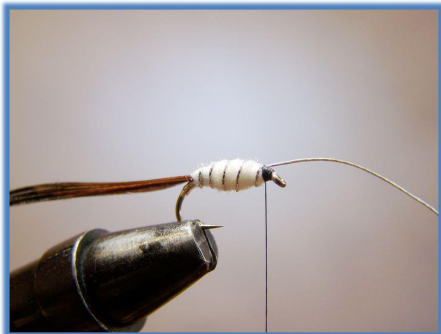
Step 12

.. and produce the body.
(You may need to go up, down and back up again to the eye) ...



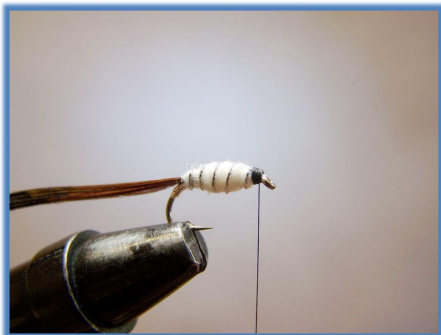
Step 13

... secure wool and remove waste.



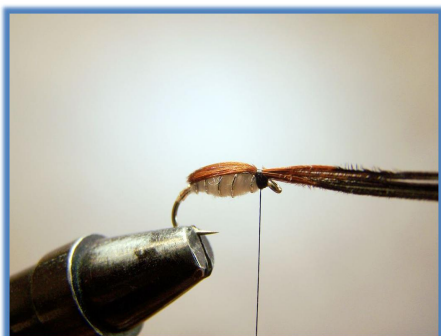
Step 14

Wind the fine oval silver tinsel (in approx 4 open turns) up the body ...



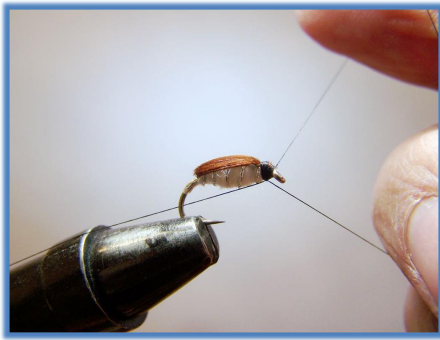
Step 15

... secure and remove waste tinsel.



Step 16

Pull the cock pheasant fibres over the body, to eye of hook, to produce wingcase ...



Step 17

... secure and remove waste. Put a whip finish here (or a few half hitches) to ensure nothing comes undone.



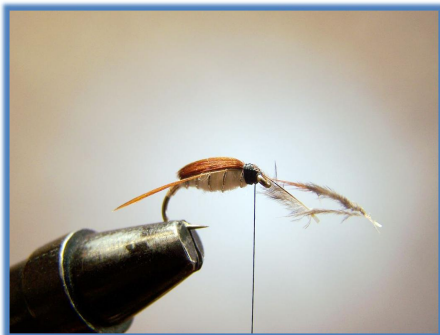
Step 18

Prepare cock hackle to produce "the paddles" by stripping fibres from stalk (as in picture).



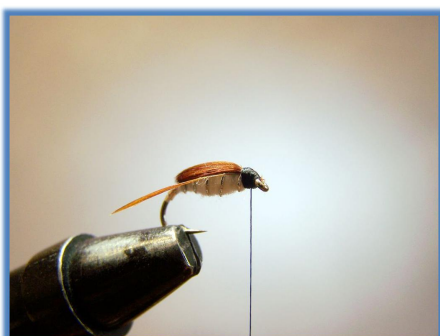
Step 19

Tip: Don't worry if hackle tip is "too fat" as this can be overcome by putting a little varnish on your finger and thumb and running the feather tip between them.



Step 20

Tie in "the paddles", one either side ...



Step 21

... remove the waste stalks and form a large head.



Step 22
Whip finish ...



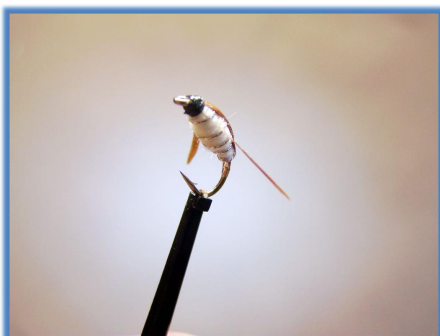
Step 23
... and remove tying thread. Apply a touch of varnish to the head.



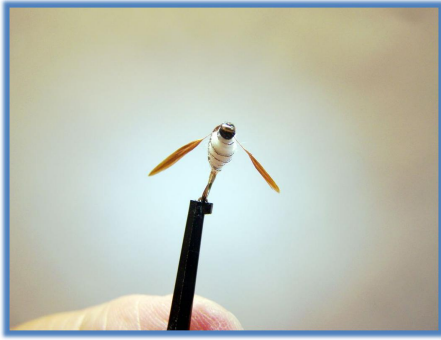
The Finished Fly



View from below



The other side



Front view



Angle view from front/side

rev 1 - Jul 2018
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