

The Hawthorn

By Derek Young

The natural hawthorn (*Bibio Marci*) is jet black in colour, up to 12mm long, with a pronounced thorax and has a distinctive pair of long trailing rear legs.



Many have written about it, such as Izaak Walton in “The Complete Angler”, but Dame Juliana Berners was the 1st to record it in 1486.

It is out in late April through May, abundant in farmland or wooded areas and there are many variants to this pattern.

I like to fish it as a single fly on a long leader and floating line, letting the wind do the work using a SLOW figure of 8 retrieve.

Dressing

Hook	Down eye Dry (Kamasan B400 size 12 to 18)	Wings	White Antron Yarn or 2 Pale blue dun hackle tips or 2 White hackle tips (lying flat over the body together).
Thread	Black 8ought Uni thread (or similar)	Thorax	Black Seals fur (Pronounced)
Legs	2 Black Pheasant tail fibres Knotted together. (One pair/set either side)	Hackle	Black cock hackle
Body	Originally Black Condor, but Black Pheasant tail fibres/ Black Goose or Black Fine dubbing will suffice	Head	Black 8ought Uni thread (or similar) varnished



Step 1

Set the hook in vice (ping it) and catch on Black 8ought tying thread.

Note: leave a 3 inch tag of thread, as this will become the rib



Step 2

Run the tying thread down the hook shank in touching turns to a position above the hook point...



Step 3

...and tie in the 3 strands of black pheasant tail fibres.



Step 4

Tip: After 3 or 4 turns of tying thread, pull the pheasant tail fibres through the “loose” wraps ...



Step 5

...and continue binding down both the tag end of tying thread and the 3 strands of pheasant tail fibres, on top of the hook shank, to just around the bend.



Step 6

Advance tying thread up hook shank to a position approx half way up the hook shank...



Step 7

...and wind the 3 strands of pheasant tail, in “TOUCHING” turns, up the hook shank, towards the eye (in the opposite direction to tying thread) and secure with half hitch.



Step 8

Now wind the tag end of tying thread, in "OPEN" turns ...



Step 9

...and opposite direction to pheasant tail fibres, and secure with half hitch.



Step 10

Remove waste tag of tying thread and pheasant tail fibres...



Step 11

...and tie in the knotted double pheasant tail fibre "legs", one set each side.



Step 12

Remove waste fibres and tie in the Antron body wool wing on top of hook shank. (If using 2 pale blue dun hackle points instead of the Antron, tie them in at this stage).



Step 13

Trim the Antron waste and secure.



Step 14

At this stage either “split” the tying thread or form a dubbing loop...



Step 15

...and insert the black seals fur.



Step 16

“Spin” the tying thread to tighten up the seals fur dubbing and wind on to create a “pronounced” thorax.



Step 17

Prepare the black cock hackle (in the form of a comb).



Step 18

Remove excess dubbing and tie in the black cock hackle (shiny side facing you).



Step 19

Wind cock hackle around hook shank (3,4 or 5 turns depending on hook size).



Step 20

Remove excess cock hackle and whip finish to form a neat head.



Step 21

Remove tying thread and trim Antron wing to required length.



The Finished Fly