

The Red Tag

By Derek Young

Originally tied as a Dry fly for Grayling but may also be tied as a wet. It is believed to have been designed by a Martyn Flynn from Worcester in the 1850's and started life as the Worcester Gem, imitating a small beetle or terrestrial but understandably became known as "The Red Tag" spawning many variant's or "spin off's" such as Worm fly, Ke-He, Treacle-Parkin, Sturdy's Fancy to name but a few.



Dressing

Hook	10-18 Dry fly (or Wet)	Body	2 Strands of Bronze Peacock herl. (More if you prefer a "fatter" body)
Thread	8 ough Black (some use Brown or even Red)	Hackle	Red/Ginger/Brown Cock hackle (Hen for wet).
Tag/Tail	Red wool or Yarn	Head	Tying thread
Rib	Copper wire (some use gold)		



Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it) and catch on tying thread



Step 2

Remove excess tag of tying thread and tie in the red wool



Step 3

Continue binding down the wool, on top of hook shank, with tying thread to bend



Step 4

Remove excess wool at tail



Step 5

Catch in the wire rib...



Step 6

...then the tip's of 2 peacock herls



Step 7

Bind down herl tips and move tying thread to thorax



Step 8

Remove waste tag of red wool and bind down stub's



Step 9

CAREFULLY wind peacock herl, up hook shank, to thorax to create body.

Tip : Be careful as herl is fragile and may break.



Step 10

Secure and remove waste herl



Step 11

Wind copper wire, in open turns and in opposite direction to peacock herl, up over body to thorax. This will give herl some protection



Step 12

Secure wire and agitate till it snap's /breaks off



Step 13

Prepare Red game cock hackle (hen hackle for wet fly)...



Step 14

...and tie in, moving tying thread to eye



Step 15

Wind cock hackle in touching turns to eye...



Step 16

...secure and remove waste stalk (if any)



Step 17

Whip finish...



Step 18

...and remove tying thread to complete head



Step 19

Use needle to separate wool fibres in tail...



Finished fly

...and trim tail to required length. (Finished fly)



The other side

See next page for variants

The Red Tag



Worm Fly (2 Red tag's tied in tandem and connected by 12lb mono/backing or braid)



Treacle Parkin (as red tag but with yellow/orange tail)



Sturdy's Fancy (as red tag but with white hackle)



White Witch (as red tag but with white hackle palmered down the body)



Silver Witch (as red tag but with silver grizzle hackle palmered down the body)



Rolt's Witch (as red tag but with black hackle palmered down the body)



Terry's Terror (as red tag but 50/50 mix red / yellow wool for tail and flat copper tinsel rib)