

Claret Guinea Spey

Jack Cook



Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Black
Thread – Pearsall's Gossamer #9, Black
Tag and Underlayment – Flat Silver Tinsel
Butt – Alec Jackson Premium Silk Floss #50, Red
Spey Hackle – Steelhead Anglers Spey Hackle, Claret
Rib – Oval Silver Tinsel, 3/0-1.5 M, 3-5 S
Body – Ronn Lucas Iridescent Dubbing, Black
Collar – Gadwall, Dyed Claret and Guinea Fowl, Dyed Claret
Wing – Dark Turkey Tail

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Tying the Claret Guinea Spey

Begin by looking carefully at the example fly I have given you. Remember the details of it as we tie the fly step by step. Keep it nearby where you can refer to it. If after any step the new fly does not look like the sample fly, back up and repeat the step carefully until it does. A fly will never get better looking by building on over a mistake.



Start by securing the black silk tying thread to the rear of an Alec Jackson Spey, Standard Wire, Black finish hook. Leave the thread hanging just in front of the hook point. Do not build up a lump of thread here. One or two wraps will do. When you are laying a smooth layer of silk or tinsel on the hook you must ensure that the underlying surface is smooth or the applied material will be bumpy and look poor.

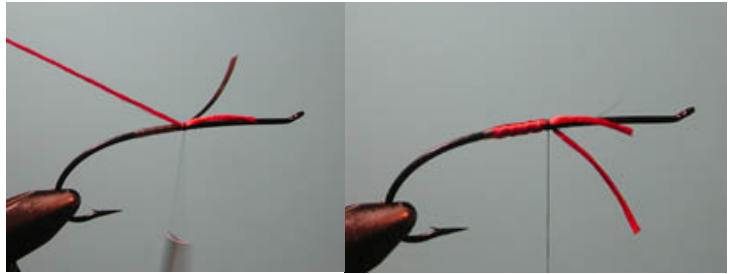
The next step is to tie in the flat tinsel. Colored silk wrapped over a black hook will turn very dark when wet so we underlay the silk butt with silver tinsel. Cut a piece of tinsel about 6 inches long, this will do 3-4 speys. Secure it at the tie in point and wrap forward about half an inch. Wrap tightly instead of using a lot of thread. Tension is better than bulk and keep it smooth. Start wrapping the tinsel with the silver side out. Wrap smoothly and abut the wraps so we don't build up a lot of tinsel. Tie off with a couple of tight wraps.



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The next step is to tie in the red silk floss. Cut a piece of floss about 6 inches long, this will do 3-4 speys. Tie it in at the front of the tinsel leaving about half an inch protruding toward the hook eye. Do **NOT** cut this tag. Wrap the silk tying thread toward the rear of the fly until



about an eighth of an inch of tag is left and then wrap forward. Keep thing smooth and flat. Pull a good deal of tension on the silk floss and wrap it carefully and smoothly and cover about half an inch of hook shank. The wraps should abut but not overlap. No silver tinsel should show through the cracks. It takes 8-10 wraps to get to where we want to be. At that point secure the floss with 2 wraps of tying silk and cut off the silk floss but leave a tag to reach to the eye loop back point. We use these materials as we go to build up the body to be smooth at the place where the tapered eye ends.



Next we prepare and tie in the spey hackle. Take one of the spey hackles and with your scissors remove all the feather from one side of the stem. Keep the best side. When we wrap the hackle the stem will be against the hook so the side you cut determines which direction the wraps will take, it does not matter which we we go. Secure the tip of the hackle, with an authentic spey fly the hackle is tied in butt end first so the longest hackle is at

the back but you have to get excellent spey hackle with small stems for this to work. with a few wraps of tying silk and do not cut the tip off. Do not make a messy bump here, a couple wraps will do.

Secure a piece of ribbing wire in the same place with a couple of wraps of tying silk. Do not make a messy bump here, a couple wraps will do. Leave the end, it will be wrapped over with tying silk and the dubbing loop to form a smooth body.



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Create a 3 inch dubbing loop and load it up with a TINY bit of dubbing. Go easy here, these are wet flies and they sink and swim better with neat, trim bodies. Barely use any dubbing. Wrap the tying thread forward quickly to just beyond the point where the return eye ends. Cover the return by about an eighth of an inch. Be sure to start the dubbing exactly at the point the silk floss ends, no bumps and no gaps here. The dubbing will be wrapped in the opposite direction, around the hook, than the spey hackle. This keeps the ribbing and hackle from digging down into the dubbing. The spey hackle and

wire will remain behind for now. The dubbing loop will wrap over the end of the hackle and the wire and will continue forward until you meet up with the tying silk. Secure the dubbing loop with 2 turns and cut it off.

Next we wrap the ribbing wire in the OPPOSITE direction we wrapped the dubbing. This keeps the wire from digging into the dubbed body. The wire and the hackle must be wrapped in the same direction. Keep going until you reach the tying thread and secure with a couple of wraps. Make sure you keep a lot of tension on the wire as you wind it, this makes for a very durable fly. DO NOT build up a mess, we are getting to the front of the fly and want things small and neat.

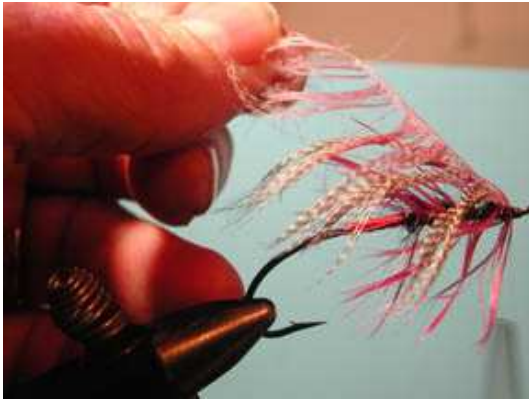
Now carefully wrap the spey hackle forward. Keep it right in front of the ribbing wire. Manipulate the hackle as necessary to keep it at right angles as you wrap around the shank as this will keep the hackle flowing out and to the rear of the fly. If the hackle starts looking like a bad hair day you are failing to keep it perpendicular. Back it off and wrap again. Wrap until you are on the actual hook shank in front of the dubbing and tie off with the stem on the bottom of the hook. Put a couple of good wraps under good tension. Cut the stem off and press and tie it in to the bottom of the separated eye. It will kind of disappear when you do it right. Do not crowd the end of the hook.

At this point this is what the fly should look like except that in this example we are starting to crowd the head a bit. Especially in a fly with two collars or a topping leave yourself a bit more room.. We all started somewhere so do not be frustrated if yours does not. Just back up to where you went awry and tune it up. Soon you will have it looking like this and will be ready to proceed. Note the small, neat point where the tying silk is waiting.



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Prepare the gadwall collar by stoking it perpendicular which holding the tip. Tie it in tip first, flush with the body, with the cupped side of the feather over the fly. Wrap 2-3 turns one next to the other, starting up against the last wrap of spey hackle. Stroke the fibres to the rear of the fly at the top of bottom of each wrap and manipulate the feature to keep perpendicular. The fibres will be perpendicular or lying back a bit when you do it well. If it makes a mess do it over. When you are finished secure with a couple of wraps on the bottom of the hook .

Prepare the guinea collar by stoking it perpendicular which holding the tip. Tie it in tip first, flush with the body, with the cupped side of the feather over the fly. Wrap 2-3 turns one next to the other, starting up against the last wrap of spey hackle. Stroke the fibres to the rear of the fly at the top of bottom of each wrap and manipulate the feature to keep perpendicular. The fibres will be perpendicular or lying back a bit when you do it well. If it makes a mess do it over. When you are finished secure with a couple of wraps on the bottom of the hook .



Note that the hackle is evenly divided top, bottom, and side. If you are tying a show fly you may want to pull it down as a beard. If you do this on a fishing fly it will not swim right. At this point you can cut it off close and make a first layer of head wraps over the last layer of collar, each wrap abuts the last going front to back. This will also push the fibres back a bit. DO not build up a mess of thread here, you are almost done.

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Now we start with the winging. Cut a wing, 1/4" wide, from the turkey quill. Choose pieces such that they curve to the back and over the fly when tied in. Measure the wing against the body, it should not go beyond the hook point. Hold it in place with fingers of your left hand and secure it in place against the side of the pre formed head at about a 45 degree angle. Work at this until you get it perfect.



Trim the end and apply the near wing in the same way. Once they are both applied cover the tie in with a scant layer of tying silk, trim, and cement. Use a good, thin cement which will penetrate the head and make the fly very secure.

We all started somewhere. Carefully follow these instructions and by the time you do all 10 in your kit you will have some good looking flies. Tight Lines and Small Heads!

