

Purple Haze

Jack Cook



Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Nickel
Thread – Scarlet
Butt - Red Silk
Spey Hackle – Steelhead Anglers Spey Hackle, Purple
Rib – Oval Silver Tinsel
Body – Ronn Lucas Iridescent Dubbing, Purple
Throat – Purple Guinea or Gadwall
Wing – Bronze Mallard

Tying the Purple Haze 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 red tying thread to the rear of an Alec Jackson Spey, Nickel 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 red silk floss. Cut a piece of floss about 6 inches long, this will do 3-4 Speys. Tie it in leaving about half an inch protruding toward the hook eye. Do **NOT** cut this tag. Wrap the silk tying thread forward quickly over the tag end. Keep thing smooth. 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 hook 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.

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. If some of the silver hook shows through that is fine. 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.



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 if 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. 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.



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 fibers back a bit. DO not build up a mess of thread here, you are almost done.



Now we start with the winging. Cut a wing, 1/4" wide, from the left and right bronze mallard. The left one is the one which curves away from you when you hold it alongside the far side of the hook, tip towards the rear. 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!