

Sauk Spey

Jack Cook



Gold Sauk Spey

Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Black
Thread – Pearsall's Gossamer #9, Black
Tag and Underlayment – Flat Gold Tinsel
Spey Hackle – Steelhead Anglers Spey
Hackle, Summer Duck
Rib – Flat Gold Tinsel and Oval Silver Tinsel
Body – Steelhead Anglers Silk-Berlin Wool,
Olive 2 strands, Claret one strand twisted
Throat – Natural Gadwall
Wing – Bronze Mallard

Silver Sauk Spey

Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Black
Thread – Pearsall's Gossamer #9, Black
Tag and Underlayment – Flat Silver Tinsel
Spey Hackle – Blue Eared Pheasant
Rib – Flat Silver Tinsel and Oval Gold Tinsel
Body – Steelhead Anglers Silk-Berlin Wool,
Olive 2 strands, Claret one strand twisted
Throat – Natural Gadwall
Wing – Bronze Mallard

THE IRISH ANGLER

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Tying the Sauk 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 front of an Alec Jackson Spey, Standard Wire, Black finish hook. Secure the return eye and leave the thread hanging in the middle of the hook. 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. The same instructions are used for both the Gold and Silver versions so don't worry about the finish. Secure it on the far side of the hook and hold

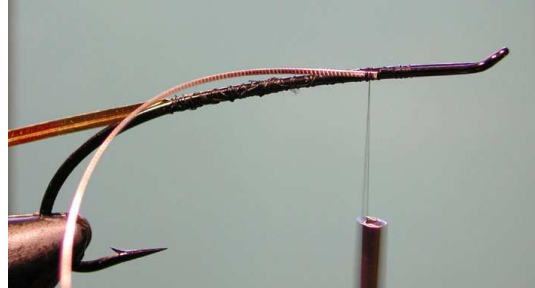
it there and wrap over it to the hook point. Then advance the thread to the return eye position.



Now secure the oval tinsel at the end of the return eye. Pull it to the rear of the fly and bind it down to the side of the hook which is toward you. At the end of this you have the



flat tinsel on the



far side of the hook and the oval on the near side. Everything is nice and smooth. Return the thread to the return eye position.

Next we prepare and tie in the Spey hackle. Take one of the Spey hackles and remove all the feather from the left side of the stem. Also clean away about half an inch on the remaining side of the hackle at the tie in point. I need just stem to secure to the hook. Secure the tip of the



hackle right on



top of the oval tinsel with a couple of wraps. Hold the hackle to the rear and position it so the start of the fibers is right at the hook point. Bind the hackle stem to the hook right above the oval tinsel and return the thread to the front of the hook.

Cut a piece of Dark Olive and Dark Claret Silk-Berlin wool and separate the twisted three strands into singles. Take 2 strands of Olive and one of



Claret and tie the in on top of the return eye. Pull to the rear and bind down on top



of the hook next to the Spey hackle stem. At the end of all this you have a nice, neat hook shank which is still round and has everything in its place.

Now the fun begins. Put the ends of the wool in a hackle plier and twist it. If you twist it tight the fly will have a ribbed look and it will take more material to do the body. If you twist it loosely the body will be flat and fuzzy. Both are appropriate, it is up to you. Play around with it and decide for yourself.



Pull the flat tinsel forward and under the hook to bend it flat against the body. Make sure you get a good fold and do not create a bump of metal here. This will also show how well you bind everything down as you really have to pull on the metal tinsel to make it lay flat. Rib the body with 4 turns and tie it off.

Wind the oval tinsel forward carefully between the turns of flat tinsel. Be sure to start on the side of the hackle stem toward the hook eye since the hackle will be wrapped behind the oval tinsel. The oval tinsel need to be centered between the wraps of flat tinsel. Do not pull too hard on the oval tinsel or you will separate it from the core.



Now carefully wind the Spey hackle forward snug behind the oval tinsel. Be vary carefully when starting the winding not to break the stem in the back. Play with the stem to keep the natural curve of the feather going over and to the rear of the fly. Do not crowd the eye of the hook, we still have work to do.



Prepare the Gadwall 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. Take a pair of scissors and



run the blade carefully toward you from the tie in point on the top of the stem. This will fold the fibers on the top and makes for a very neat collar. Wrap 1-2 turns one next to the other, starting up against the last wrap of Spey hackle. 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 hoof, 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. The first wrap of thread gets a little tension and each succeeding wrap is forward of the last and is tighter than the last. This way the wing does not explode. 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.

Have fun fishing the Sauk Spey!