

Snoqualmie Spey

Jack Cook



Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Black
Thread – Pearsall's Gossamer #35, Salmonberry
Underlayment and Tag – Flat Gold Tinsel
Spey Hackle – Steelhead Anglers Spey Hackle, Shrimp Orange
Rib – Oval Gold Tinsel
Body – Alec Jackson Premium Silk Floss #29, Peach
Collar – Gadwall Flank, Dyed Shrimp Orange
Wing – Bronze Mallard

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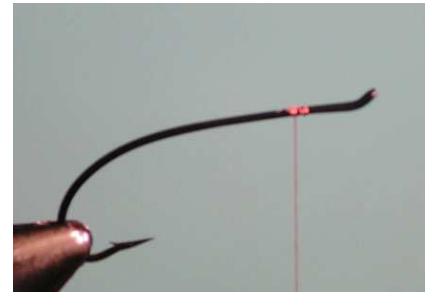
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Tying the Snoqualmie Spey



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 silk tying thread to the front of an Alec Jackson Spey hook. Secure the return eye and leave the thread hanging there. 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.



Next we attach the flat gold tinsel. Gold must be laid on the black hook or when the fly gets wet the body will lose the color and turn black. Since we are using a silk body the underlayment must be very smooth or the silk body will have lumps and bumps. Secure the tinsel right where the return eye end. We do this to help build up this point so the transition is smooth. Wrap the tinsel tightly to the hook point making sure every wrap is smooth and precise. At the hook point change direction and wrap back to the tie in spot. Tie off with a couple of tight turns of thread and do not build up a lump of thread here.

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 go. Since we are using a silk body we must strip a bit of the stem to wrap along the hook to keep a smooth body. Secure the tip of the hackle right where the return eye end and on the side of the hook. Pull the hackle back and secure it in a straight line as if the return eye extended to the hook point. All the time we are tying in the hackle we are also fine tuning the underlayment for the body. Return the thread to the tie in point.



Secure a piece of ribbing in the same place with a couple of wraps of tying silk. Do not make a messy bump here, a couple wraps will do. Pull the rib back and secure it to the hook right above the hackle stem. Again we are preparing the body. Return the thread to the front of the hook.



Cut a piece of silk floss, about 8-10 inches will do. Attach the silk to the front of the hook with a couple of tight wraps. Keep tension on the silk so it stays flat and carefully wrap to the back where the hackle and ribbing are exposed. Leave a bit of gold tinsel showing as a tag. Each

wrap must be perfectly smooth. Be careful not to twist the floss and form a rope, keep it flat.



Next wrap the ribbing forward in 5 turns. Carefully make sure the spacing is even on each turn. Tie off and do not crowd the head. 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 behind 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. Tie off with the stem on the bottom of the hook. Put a couple of good wraps under good tension. Do not crowd the front of the hook.



Prepare the gadwall collar by stoking it perpendicular while holding the tip. Tie in tip first, flush with the body, with the cupped side of the feather over the fly. Wrap 2 turns one next to the other, starting up against the last wrap of Spey hackle. Stroke the fibers to the rear of the fly at the top of bottom of each wrap and manipulate the feature to keep perpendicular. The fibers will be perpendicular or lying back when you do it well. If

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it makes a mess do it over. When you are finished secure with a couple of wraps on the bottom.



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. Work at this until you get it.



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!