

Lady Caroline



Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Black
Thread – Pearsall's Gossamer #9, Black
Tail – Golden Pheasant Breast
Spey Hackle – Ringneck Pheasant Flank or Blue Eared Pheasant
Rib – Flat Silver Tinsel and Oval Silver Tinsel
Body – Ronn Lucas Iridescent Dubbing, Lady Caroline or
Steelhead Anglers Silk-Berlin Wool, 1 strand Brown, 2 strands Olive
Collar – Golden Pheasant Breast
Wing – Bronze Mallard

Tying the Lady Caroline



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 the Alec Jackson Spey, Standard Wire, Bronze finish hook. Secure the return eye and wind to the rear. 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.

Next we secure the ribbing with a couple of tight turns. This has no butt, the dubbing and ribbing go from the hook point to the front of the body in one continuous stream. The trick is that the Spey hackle starts at the second turn of ribbing and the ribbing will be applied after the hackle. This means must remember that the first quarter of the body will get ribbing only and only after that will the Spey hackle come into play.





With the ribbing secure go ahead and make a dubbing loop. BE sure it is long enough as we are doing the entire hook in the same dubbing loop. Also prepare the Spey Hackle(Pheasant Rump) by cutting the fibers from the poor side. It does not matter which side you keep but it does decide which way we will wrap the body and the hackle. The hackle stem goes

against the hook and the feathers natural curve goes over and back on the hook. Once you prepare the hackle hold it up and figure out which way it will be wrapped. Remember that the ribbing and the dubbing will be wrapped in the OPPOSITE direction.

Start wrapping the dubbing forward. When you get about 25% of the way it is time to tie in the Spey hackle. Let the dubbing loop hang and tie in the Spey hackle and trim.



Advance the thread to the front of the hook and continue wrapping the dubbing loop to the front. DO not crowd the front of the hook.

At this point go ahead and wrap the Spey hackle to the front in 4 turns. If you prefer three or 5 turns no one will object.



Take the ribbing wire and wind it forward using two more turns than the number of hackle turns. Wind in the opposite direction of the hackle to cover and protect the fragile pheasant hackle stem. Use your bodkin to move the Spey fibers out of the way as you wind, none should be held down by the ribbing.

Prepare the Golden Pheasant collar by combing the fibers out from the stem. Tie in by the tip and wind two turns. Tease the fibers as you wrap so the stand perpendicular and the natural curve flows to the back of the fly.



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 perfect.



Now do the same on the near side. The trick with the winging is to make sure each wrap of thread is forward of the last and tighter than the last. If any tight wrap goes over the fibers it will splay on you. First wrap if firm, second it tighter, next is very tight, etc.

At this point you are finished, whip finish and cement and go fish it.

