FLY OF THE MONTH

Grey Goose
October 2014
Introduction: Kit Seaton
Tying Steps by: Jim Ferguson and Frank Johnson
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Video: Al and Gretchen Beatty

The Fly Tying Group of the IFFF has a new program. It is called the Fly Tying Skills Award Program and the first level of the program, the Bronze Award, was recently published on the IFFF website. The program is the equivalence of a merit badge program for fly tyers. The program was designed for tyers to measure their skills and receive valuable feedback to improve their craft. The program consists of 5 required patterns and 3 flies of the tyers choosing. One of the required flies is a midge pattern called the Grey Goose. The following pattern comes straight from the newly developed Bronze Award of the Fly Tying Skills Program. For further information see the details in handbooks and be sure to view the instructional videos on the website.

Website: http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyTyingSkillsAwardsProgram.aspx
Video: https://vimeo.com/105199971

Hook: #10 - 14 scud hook
TMC 2487, Daiichi 1130, TMC 403BLJ, Umpqua U202, TMC 2488
Dai-Riki 125, Dai-Riki 135

Thread: Black 8/0 Uni-Thread or equivalent

Rib: Fine Silver wire

Body: Canada goose wing fibers (herl) or similar

Wing Case: Canada goose wing fibers (herl) or similar

Thorax: Peacock herl
Tying Steps

Step 1
Insert the hook into the vise which is a size 10 Daiichi 1130 hook.

Step 2
Attach the thread just behind the eye of the hook and form a neat underbody of tying thread extending to half way around the bend of the hook. The thread was moved to the half shank position to keep thread from sliding.

Step 3
Tie in the rib at the end of the underbody
Step 4
Tie in 4 fibers of grey goose herl by the tips, on top of the rib. Take the thread to the thorax tie in position. Note: more goose herl fibers may be needed for larger hooks.

Step 5
Wrap the goose herls forward to form an even body, stopping half way along the hook shank and remove waste.

Step 6
Reverse wrap the rib forward in even turns to provide segmentation and strength. Break or "worry off" the excess wire. This technique is also referred to as a helicopter twisting manoeuvre.
Step 7
Tie in 6 strands of grey goose herl.

Step 8
Tie in two strands of peacock herl. Wrap the thread forward to a position right behind the eye of the hook.

Step 9
Wrap the peacock herls forward in touching turns and tie off just short of the eye. Trim off the excess.
Step 10
Carefully bring the goose herls up and over the top of the peacock herl to form a wingcase and tie down the herl fibers

Step 11
Be sure the fibers stay together on top of the hook and then trim the goose herls.

Step 12
Form a neat head, whip-finish and apply head cement.
The photos above show different views of a pair of the Grey Goose Midge Emergers tied on a Diichi 1130 size 10 hook and on a TMC 2487 size 12 hook.

Tying Tips:
- When choosing the grey goose feathers, look for the longest possible herls. Cuff off a short amount of the tips and tie in tightly at the end of the thread underbody. Avoid letting any thread show. Use enough herl to reach the head. If you find that 4 strands comes up short, re do with 5 or 6 strands.
- Take care with the ribbing: ensure that the turns are evenly spaced and parallel to each other, on both sides of the fly.
- The peacock herls may be twisted together after tying in for extra strength if desired or a thread loop can be used to reinforce the herls by twisting them into chenille like rope.
- When trimming the excess off the wing case, ensure sharp scissors are used. a neater head can be obtained by cutting the fibers individually and at slightly different lengths to avoid a sharp, bulky edge.

Notes:
This pattern represents a large midge but is often taken by fish feeding on sedge pupae and small fry. The thorax material and colour can be varied to give many effective combinations.

Fly of the Month:
Do you know someone who deserves to be featured in the Fly of the Month? If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact Kit Seaton at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org.

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly.

This is the guest tyer's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org.