

OSPREY FLY BOX

Dark Montreal

contributed by

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Keen on vintage fly tying, my attention peaked when reading about the famous "Dark Montreal," in Harold Hinsdill Smedley's 1944 book, *Fly Patterns and Their Origins*. No definitive answer to who can claim ownership of design, (Scottish Canadian, Peter Cowan or English American, William Forester), but its clear this attractor pattern in the Scottish tradition was well received as early as the 1850s. Today, the Dark Montreal has evolved solely from a wet fly for Brookies to an all purpose trout-er and even, when tied with a larger hook, as a successful salmon/steelhead pattern both in eastern and western North America, as well as the United Kingdom.

Like most things we do, there is a ripple effect. Just so with this fly. Cowan introduced it to British soldiers in the Eastern Townships and New Brunswick who returned to the UK with it. In the 1940s and 50s, during the heyday of independent fly tying, well known Americans like Lee Wulff's reviewed the Dark Montreal and cemented the reputations of New Brunswicker, David LaPointe's and professional fly dressers: Corinne Gallant, Helene Jean, Carmelle and Robertine LeBlanc, and Corrine Legace. In 2007, Canada Post recognized it as truly Canadian heritage fly. Undoubtedly, it's a pattern worth testing.



MATERIALS



List of Materials:

Hook: Wet fly Mustad 3906 (3XH/2XL/) Sizes 2-14
(Here using a Size 8)

Base Thread: Uni thread 8/0 White (used if the black thread bleeds through the floss)

Tag: Gold Mylar, #16 or 12 (Here using #12)

Rib: Uni-French Med Wire Gold (Gold Mylar or Narrow Gold Flat Braid could also be used if very narrow)

Tail/Throat: Claret Saddle Hackle (Schlappen can also be used)

Body: Claret Danville 900 Dernier floss

Wing: Mottled Turkey Rounds

Head: Uni thread 8/0 Black & Head Cement

N.B. The Original Dark Montreal did not have a tag

There are many variations on the "Montreal" for more information you can go to an article in *Fly Anglers On Line* by Sheldon Seale from an article May 15, 2000 <http://www.flyanglersonline.com/features/canada/can98.php>

To learn more about the background check out these sources:

<http://www.flyanglersonline.com/features/oldflies/part219.php>

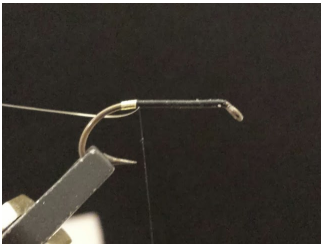
<http://stillwater-runsdeep.blogspot.ca/2008/06/dark-montreal.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nsqQoA7oPk>



Commemorative stamp recognizing Dark Montreal fly issued in 2007 by Canada Post

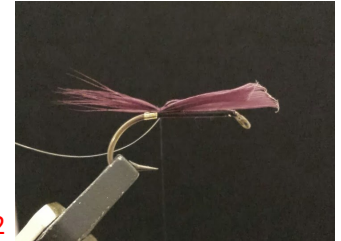
TYING INSTRUCTIONS



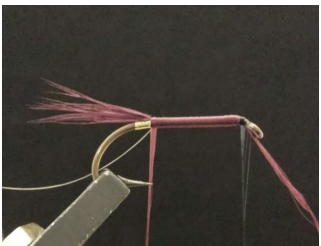
1

- Wrap thread to just above start of curve.
- Lay in trimmed mylar. Wrap thread 2 or 3 times up shank.
- Wrap mylar only around arc to create tag. Tie off and cut excess.

- Tie in rib opposite side of mylar tie in.
- Tie in red colour tail 1/2 the shank length.
- Tie off tail, trim excess and wrap thread to starting point.



2



3

- At starting point below eye, tie in body floss. Wrap body with touching turns down to tag, and back up to head.
- Avoid overwrapping or thickening floss. Tie off and trim excess

- Wrap mylar rib 4 to 5 times up to the eye. Tie off and trim the excess.
- **If using white thread whip finish and tie in black thread.**



4

- Tie in claret colour throat.



5

- Cut left and right side turkey rounds, mirroring natural curve and length. Tie in. Whip finish to secure.

- Wrap black thread to complete head, and seal with head cement.



6



7

Tight Lines & Good Luck!