

The Osprey Fly Box

by
Will Wright
“Grantham Winged Greaseliner”

A big thanks again this month to Rick Jones who offers this version of the ever adaptable Western Special.

A couple months back I put forward the Western Special as the best summer run steelhead pattern available for sub-surface fishing. Now I respectfully introduce you to what I consider the best dry fly for summer run steelhead. The grease liner was developed by the late Harry Lemire some years ago using the colours of the Western Special. Harry has taken numerous fish on the Thompson River over the twenty-pound mark with this fly. The only problem with it was keeping it on the surface, I found that the ruffle hitch worked quite well but I would suffer a break off on some of the larger fish.

The Grantham Wing is the answer. I began using the Grantham Wing this year on the Bulkley with some surprising results. The fly stayed on the float through some pretty rough water bouncing to the surface after being sunk by a curling wave or a missed fish. With this wing design the fly does not require any floatant.

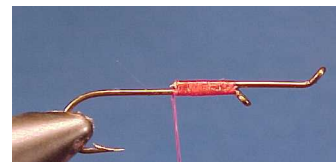
TYING THE GRANTHAM WING:

This is just a spun deer hair head extension that hangs out the front of the fly. Ron Grantham uses a piece of weed-eater mono cord as a tying base. As I like to spin deer head bodies with a very tight thread, I found the mono would bend when spinning the head creating problems. If you're like me, you probably have a lot of old flies lying around the bench waiting to be put to the scalpel. After cutting off the bend of these hooks the shank can be used as a tying base for the extended deer hair head.

I found I could raise fish by casting it out straight out in front, letting it dead drift for twenty or thirty feet and then swinging it on the drag.

Hook:	Any down eye hook (Rick likes to use size 4).
Thread:	Red
Tail:	Clump of deer hair
Body:	Black chenille
Wing:	Deer hair
Head:	Spun deer hair

Cut a hook just before the bend and lash it to the main hook. Do not try to cover the cut end, there may be a sharp edge that will nick your thread. Coat the joint with glue for a secure bond.



Tie in the deer hair tail trimming the butts even with the end of the top hook. Tie in the chenille body material.



Wrap the body forward and tie in the deer hair wing leaving the butts long enough to blend in with the spun deer hair head.



Spin four or five clumps of deer hair onto the extension and trim to shape as you would the head of a muddler. Trim the hair very short around the eye of the hook to make it easier to thread your leader.



One last bit of advice from Rick, “Be sure to tie your leader tippet to the main hook eye”, good idea!