

OSPREY FLY BOX

MALLARD & SILVER

contributed by
Blair Thomas

This old pattern (British) is a standby that can be altered in many ways to provide a whole series of flies for every occasion - whether imitating fry or fingerlings or minnows.

This fly has endless potential for the tier to invent their own patterns - by adding a hint of colour - I tie them with grey Mallard breast feathers and then use a coloured marker (per Rick Jones) to darken the feathers to match the fry I am imitating or add an underwing of Peacock or any other material for colour.

I am sure that the Mallard and Silver and its cousin, the "Teal & Silver" are the basis or inspiration for most of our minnow and fry patterns. Take the basic pattern and tie down the Mallard and viola, a tied down minnow.

Whether it is the Harrison River, the Fraser River and surrounding Sloughs or at my favourite - the mouth of the Adams River (just to name a few locations) - you will see this pattern or variations hard at work catching Cutthroat, Rainbow and Dolly Varden or Bull trout that are gorging on salmon fry and fingerlings.

I have seen a saltwater variation tied 4" long and fished like a bucktail for Coho and Springs.

So tie a few up - use your imagination then have fun and catch some fish.



The Mallard & Silver tied as a variety of patterns.

MATERIALS

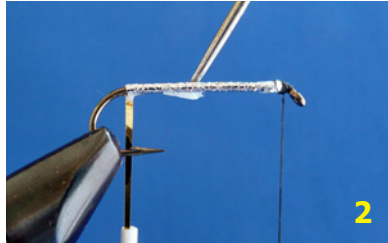


Hook:	Standard 3X Long Streamer Hook Mustad 9672
Thread:	Black
Body:	Flat Silver Tinsel
Hackle:	Red or Brown Hen
Wing:	Natural Mallard



TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Photography by Peter Chatt

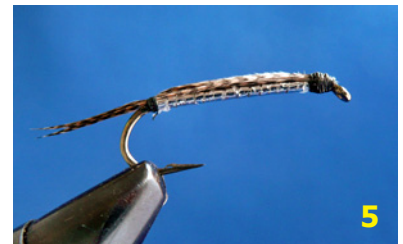
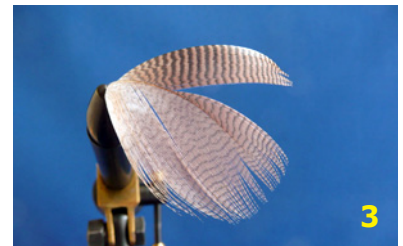


Mallard & Silver



Egg Sack Minnow (Brown Sac)

- Debarb the hook.
- Lay a down a base of thread.
- Attach the tinsel at the eye and wind it down the hook.
- Add head cement.
- Wind the tinsel back to the head.
- Smooth the head cement that has wept out.
- Select your feather and take off a piece for the wing.
- Fold it in half; then fold in half again. Now it is ready to apply.
- Tie the folded feather in position. Build thread head, Whipfinish and apply head cement to finish the fly
- The "MALLARD & SILVER".
- Reattach the thread above the barb.
- Tie down the over wing.
- You you now have "SILVER MINNOW"
- To tie a Egg Sack Minnow after #2 attach a red hackle, and make two or three wraps.
- Tie off and clip excess.
- Stroke the hackle down on the sides.
- Tie in mallard wing and finish fly.
- For the Brown hackle version follow #6 and #7.



Silver Minnow



Egg Sack Minnow (Red Sac)

THE FINISHED FLIES

Mallard & Silver

Silver Minnow

Egg Sack Minnow (Red Sac)

Egg Sack Minnow (Brown Sac)

This is a very versatile classic pattern!