

OSPREY FLY BOX

NOTHING FLY

contributed by
Dan Cahill

For those of us who spend a good portion of our time pursuing Steelhead with a dry line and dry fly, I offer this small pattern. The pattern itself came from the mind and hand of a good friend and partner in whom I have the upmost respect as a dry fly Steelheader, Frank Cernaway. It is called the Nothing Fly.

This pattern is really just representative of a small buggy pattern that would be used to attract a "player". A player is a Steelhead that shows itself to your wading dry fly. It follows the fly; splashes at it; puts its nose up to it; tugs it a bit and may even give huge a swirl like a toilet bowl flushing. It is obviously playing with your presentation, but it does not take it. This is when angler should have a small buggy pattern in his arsenal to follow up on before moving on.

Your small pattern should be much smaller than the original wading pattern. It should be drab and should be very "buggy" in appearance. Most dry fly Steelheaders will start with a fly that's size 6 or even smaller thus making the choice of finding an alternate small wet pattern challenging. To ensure that you land this fish you may want to continue with the same size of hook but your tie should be as though you're using at least 2 sizes smaller. I suggest that you change the hook style to a low water pattern or other small strong hook of your choice and then tie a small fly on the front of the hook.

I have 2 or 3 of this type of follow-up fly in various patterns in my box and I encourage you to think about this concept and develop your own "closing" pattern.



Dan Cahill prepares to release a steelhead.

MATERIALS

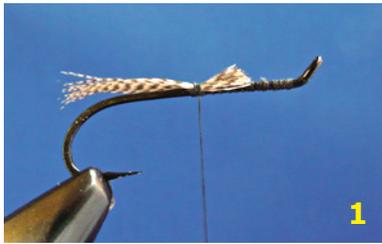


- Hook:** Low Water Salmon
Size 6 - 8
- Thread:** Black
- Tail:** Barred Widgeon
- Body:** Peacock Herl
- Wing:** Pheasant Saddle



TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Photography by Peter Chatt



- Debarb the hook
- Lay a down a base of thread on the front half (or less) of the hook
- Tie in a short tail of widgeon fibers.



- Tie in several strands of peacock herl.



- Wrap the peacock herl forward.

The Finished Fly



Nothing Fly

- Tie in the Pheasant saddle wing.
- Form a small thread head.
- Whip finish and add drop of head cement.

