

OSPREY FLY BOX

THE PURPLE FLASH

In Memory of Gil Sage

Text by Steve Hanson

This pattern, as Gil himself said, has probably been tied by someone else. Since I have never seen it in any book or magazine, it's Gil's pattern, for now at least.

Last fall, Gil was looking for a pattern that would sink. He tried the optic style of fly but was having a problem getting the fly to look balanced. He tried beads, split shot, and lead wire with no success. Finally, he added lead eyes and got the balance he sought and the fly went down.

The colours purple and orange are steelhead favorites, so Gil was confident that he had a winner. Fishing the vedder this past winter and spring, Gil was able to hook and land two winter steelhead on the Flame.

This past summer, he was unable to go to the Dean, so he gave me a few Flames to see what the summer run steelhead thought of it. They loved them.

A simple fly to tie. Give it a try.



Gil with his prize for the day a beautiful Steelhead.

MATERIALS



- Hook: Mustad S71SZ-3407 Size: #2
O'Shaughnessy Straight Eye
(Gil's original was tied with a down eye, which is no longer made.)
- Thread: Black #6
- Body: Silver Wire - Medium
- Wing: Orange Bucktail
- Hackle: Purple Hen
- Eyes: Lead Dumbbell - Small 1/40 oz
(for the Winter Version)

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

by Peter Chatt



Debarb the hook.

Put a layer of thread on the hook. Wrap to the bend of the hook and back to the eye.

Tie on the silver wire at the eye. Lay it along the top of the hook, back to the bend. Secure with thread.

Wind silver wire tightly back to the eye and tie off.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*



Tie in a medium size bundle of stacked Orange Bucktail.



Trim the tip of the Purple Hackle.

Tie in by the tip and wind forward.

This will leave the shorter barbules at the back, allowing the whole hackle to stand up once the hackle has been wound forward.

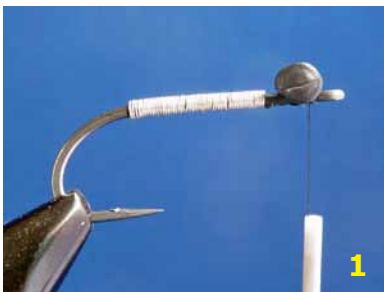
The Finished Fly



The Purple Flash - Summer Version

Build a thread head.

Apply head cement.



For winter fishing add the Dumbbell Eyes

The Finished Fly



The Purple Flash - Winter Version

Finish as described above.