

Fly of the Month

The Renegade



Hook :- Dry fly 18-10

Thread :- Black 6/0 or 8/0

Tag :- Gold tinsel

Body :- Peacock herl

Hackle :- Rear, brown or ginger
Front, white or cream

The Renegade has been around since the 1920s and is said to have been devised for use on Wyoming rivers by a Taylor “Beartrack” Williams. It’s a firm favourite in America and is used on rivers and lakes for rainbows, browns and cutthroat trout. It’s another of those flies that doesn’t represent anything in particular, except maybe midges in the smaller sizes, but looks worthy of inspection and a taste by the fish. It’s reputation in America is as a very good prospecting dry fly, rather like the red tag in Australia.

Tying the Renegade is nice and straightforward. Place hook in vice and lay foundation thread from eye to a little way around the bend. Attach a length of gold tinsel and wind it forward three or four turns to the top of the bend and tie it off. (Personally, I can’t see the point of a gold tag on a gold coloured hook but I do add one when tying on black hooks such as the Tiemco 102Y.) Next tie in the rear hackle with fibres a bit longer than the hook gape and wind it forward four or five turns. Tie it off and then attach a single strand of peacock herl for the smaller sizes and maybe two or three strands in the larger sizes. Wind forward forming a nice bushy body and tie off leaving room for four or five turns of the white front hackle. A neat little varnished head and the fly is finished.

There’s not much in the way of variations in the Renegade. You can make it a Royal Renegade, in the style of the Royal Coachman, by adding a red silk “waist” on the peacock herl body, and some make it a wet fly by sloping the hackles to the rear and adding a red tag. There are also versions around with three hackles.....brown, white, brown, or vice- versa.



Alan T.
