

Fly of the Month

The Black Joe



Hook :- 16-14-12, Kamasan B170 or similar

Body :- Rear half, bright red Glo Brite or DRF floss,
Front half, black ostrich herl or black dubbing

Hackle :- Long fibred black hen

The Black Joe is a Scottish pattern usually used as a dropper in loch style fishing, but there are no hard and fast rules in fly fishing and I can vouch for the fact that it also works as a down and across style fly in small rivers. When we were touring Australia in our campervan back in 1991 I teamed up for a couple of days with a fisherman in South Australia who took me fishing on what I think was the upper Onkaparinga River. I had two or three unused Black Joes in my fly box and gave him one to try and he promptly caught a nice fish on it. Now that I have rediscovered a couple in the dark recesses of my fly box I intend to give them a go on rivers and still waters this season.they look good.

I find the best way to tie the Black Joe is to have your bright red floss on its own bobbin holder and use it to put a couple of layers on the rear half of the hook shank. Tie that off and then attach your usual black tying thread behind the eye and cover the shank back to the red floss. Tie in the black ostrich herl and wind it forward to just behind the eye. If you don't have black ostrich herl black dubbing of your choice will do the job. Now take a nice soft hen hackle with barbs at least twice as long as the hook gape and tie that in. Give that three or four turns only and tie it off. Build up a small head, using the thread to slope the hackle to the rear, whip finish and varnish. It's important with the Black Joe that the hen hackle is nice and long, soft and wispy, and that there's not too much of it.

A.T.

