

Fly of the Month

The F-fly

One of the flies in Cameron's six fly selection last month was the F-fly and was his top scoring fly in small streams. Allan Ekert also included it in his list back in November 2012. The F-fly is a comparative newcomer to the fly fishing world being first tied and publicised in 1983 by Marjan Fratnik in Slovenia. It is very popular in Europe and its use is spreading world wide.



Hook :- 16-10 dry fly

Thread :- Colour of your choice

Body :- Two or three layers of tying thread

Wing :- Two, three or four CDC feathers depending on hook size.

Head :- Tying thread built up and varnished

Above is the original dressing by Marjan Fratnik, and it works. There can't be many simpler flies to tie but fly tiers can't resist 'improving' a good basic design, although they have a job with a fly that only has two materials, including the tying thread. In reality the only variations possible are in the body material where the thread is sometimes dubbed, or stripped quill, pheasant tail fibres, etc. are substituted. The CDC feathers can also be used in different colours. Some tiers (and I am one !) don't like paying as much for a packet of CDC feathers as you would for a whole duck so Float-vis or similar is sometimes used for the wing.



CDC, by the way, stands for 'cul de canard' which is French for 'duck's bum' (and that's the polite translation). Marjan Fratnik himself preferred feathers from the 'croupion', which translates as 'rump' or 'parson's nose' although he quite happily used the regular CDC feathers from near the duck's preening gland when he couldn't find the less common croupion ones.

I haven't yet discovered what the 'F' stands for in F-fly. If anyone knows please enlighten us, bearing in mind that this is a family friendly newsletter.

A.T.

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