

Fly of the Month

The Spun



Hook :- Dry fly 12-14-16

Thread :- Unithread 8/0 black

Tail :- Black Microfibrils

Body :- Stripped peacock herl

Wing :- Possum tail fur

Hackle :- Black, brown or grizzle cock

The Spun, as its name suggests, is something of a cross between a spinner and a dun and, according to well known Tasmanian fly fisherman and author Chris Bassano, was designed in the early nineties by his friend Cameron Spur. It's a favourite of Chris's and features in his selection in "Australia's Best Trout Flies Revisited". Our own Gary Cullen likes it too as it accounted for a lot of his fish towards the end of his excellent season (See report above)

Neatness and avoiding overdressing is important when tying the original Spun. It's a fly meant to sit low and kept afloat by the wing and tailsome versions around have gone away from the principle and are too heavily hackled. Lay foundation thread from eye to bend and tie in four microfibrils about hook shank in length, two each side splayed out V fashion, Attach the stripped herl and take thread forward to ¼ shank length from the eye then wind the stripped herl forward and tie it off. Next comes the wing which should be a light and wispy pinch of the lightish coloured hair from the base of a possum tail. That's tied in and a few turns of thread added behind it to make it stand up a bit. Tie in the hackle and give it one turn behind the wing and a couple in front. A small varnished head and the fly is finished. To make sure the fly sits low you can trim the underside of the hackle.



Davy McPhail deer hair Spun

The colour of the hackle is about the only variation of the Spun although there is a deer hair hackled version out there. If you don't have microfibrils you can substitute hairs from a fine paintbrush or long cock hackle fibres. And a strand of moose mane hair is a good substitute for stripped peacock herl

Alan T.

