

## Fly of the Month

## The Black Spinner



Hook :- Dry fly 14-12. ( Tiemco 102Y 13-11 are good)

Thread :- Unithread 6/0 black

Tail :- Black cock hackle fibres

Body :- Black floss, tying thread will do fine

Rib :- Flat silver tinsel or fine wire ( rib is optional )

Hackle :- Black cock

The Launceston Show has gone so it is traditionally time for the spinner hatches to start making an appearance here in northern Tasmania although I think that this year we may have to wait for the rain to stop and the rivers to drop a bit and lose that milky coffee tinge. It's not a hard and fast rule but red spinners seem to dominate in our rivers with the black spinners more evident in the lakes. If the fish are rising to red spinners and you don't have one in your box the black spinner will often do the trick.

I like tying most of my dry flies on Tiemco 102Y hooks because they are lightweight, black and strong (what more could you ask of a hook ?) Place hook in vice and take foundation thread from eye to bend. Tie in the tail of black cock hackle fibres about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times hook shank length... 5 or 6 good fibres is plenty, and then attach your ribbing. Tie in a length of floss, take the tying thread forward to about a quarter shank length back from the eye and then wind the floss forward to that point and secure it. If you are using your black tying thread instead of floss form the body by making three or four layers of thread. Follow that with two or three turns of ribbing. Next attach a good quality black cock hackle with fibres about equal to the hook gape and wind it forward in nice tight turns to just behind the eye, secure it and make just a small varnished head.

The black spinner doesn't lend itself to much in the way of variations but some tyers wind a grizzly hackle through the black. You can't see it in the picture above but I like to wind on a few turns of peacock herl between the body and the eye and then wind the black hackle over it. I think it adds just a little bit more glint to catch the fish's eye. ....maybe not but it looks good to me.

*Alan T.*

~~~~~