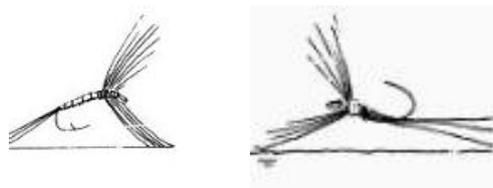
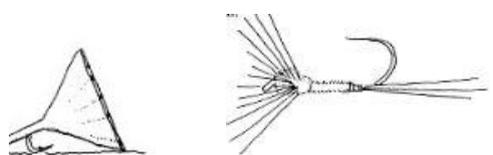


When it comes to dry flies it doesn't matter whether you like flies that are a realistic copy of an insect, a scruffy thing that looks like something a trout might eat or something in between, you can't get away from the fact that there is a curved piece of metal hanging from it. We all catch flies on such flies but there seems to be a consensus amongst fishermen that flies are sometimes refused because of that visible piece of the hook. There have been many attempts to devise flies that float point up, possibly the most notable being the Upside Down Dun Paradun..... the USD Paradun.....by Goddard and Clarke in the 1970s. It proved its worth on finicky trout but was tricky to tie.

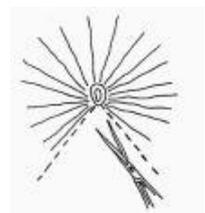
Neil Patterson decided there must be an easier way to tie a fly that floats point up and came up with the Funnel Dun. He describes his thinking and development of the fly in his 1995 book "Chalkstream Chronicle", which has some line drawings detailing the fly and the principles involved in tying it.



He starts by putting a small ball of dubbing behind the eye of the hook and then tying in the hackle feather, which doesn't have to be of any great quality but should have fibres about twice the hook gape. Four or five turns are made of the hackle which is then sloped forward about 45 degrees by overbinding the tie-in point. The ball of dubbing previously tied in stops the fibres going forward too far. He then applies some dubbing to the thread and makes a thorax behind the hackle and a thinner dubbed body down to the tail tie-in point. The tail fibres are then tied in, which he emphasises should be attached a bit further around the bend than the normal tail position, and be tied so that they splay out wide to prevent the fly from rolling. You can either whip finish and cut the tying thread at that point or, if you find that awkward, add a little more dubbing, take it forward over the body and tie off at the thorax.



Now take your scissors and cut a 'V' out of the **top** of the hackle, *i.e.* on top of the hook. This will make the fly float inverted.



You know you have got it right when the fly you have just tied lands point up every time you flip it onto your tying bench, as in the first picture below.

The Funnel Dun is, of course, a style of tying rather than a pattern. Hackles, body, ribbing and tail materials are all chosen to suit your local needs.



Alan T.

