

Fly of the Month

The Viva



Hook :- Long shank wet fly 6-8-10

Tail :- Fluoro floss or wool. Lime green, chartreuse or yellow.

Body :- Black chenille

Rib :- Silver tinsel

Wing :- Black marabou

The Viva is a fly of UK origin from the early 1970s and is reputedly named after a model of Vauxhall car that was very popular at the time. It has a reputation as a good fly to use in the cold, deep water often found at the start of the season when fish are sluggish and sometimes need to be provoked into taking something.

The Viva is a fairly straightforward fly to tie. Start in the usual way by laying foundation thread from behind the eye to the start of the bend where you tie in the tail. Fluorescent wool can be hard to find but fluoro floss such as Glo-Brite is readily available. That is just single strand though, so what you do is take a piece about 300mm long and double it 3 or 4 times until you are holding 16 or 32 strands. Tie that length onto the hook to overhang the bend and then snip open the little loops to form the tail. Bind the excess tail material along the shank and then return the thread to just above the bend. Attach the tinsel and the black chenille. (Stripping 3 or 4mm off the chenille to expose the core thread will avoid a lump at the tie in point.) Take the tying thread forward to a few millimetres behind the eye and then wind the chenille forward to that spot and secure it. The tinsel is then counterwound over the chenille body and tied off at the same place. Now attach a generous bunch of black marabou in front of the chenille body with the tips reaching back to just past the tail. Trim the butt ends and build up a nice head with your tying thread. A coat or two of head cement to make that thread head nice and shiny and the fly is finished.

The Viva is a good searching wet fly in its original incarnation but there are a few variations. Some tyers like to add a beard hackle and a beadhead version is common. The Viva also looks good with the thread head in the colour of the tail. There's even a booby version.



Alan T.

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