

## Fly of the Month

## The Royal Coachman.



Hook :- Dry fly, 10 – 18

Thread :- Black 6/0

Tail :- Golden pheasant tippets

Body :- Peacock herl, red silk, peacock herl

Wing :- White hackle tips, white Hi-vis, or similar.

Hackle :- Brown cock hackle

The Royal Coachman, sometimes called the strawberries and cream fly, is a modern derivative of an old English fly simply called the Coachman, first tied by a Tom Bosworth who was a coachman to Queen Victoria. The original fly was a lot plainer with wet and dry versions.



Coachman, wet



Coachman, dry

The Coachman made its way across the Atlantic and in 1876 a professional fly tyer, John Haily of New York, put a band of red silk around the middle of the peacock herl body to make it more durable. The appearance of the fly with its red waist so impressed Mr. C.L. Orvis, brother of Charles, that he christened it “Royal”. That red band has now become the signature of the Royal Coachman in all its variations be it wet fly, streamer, fan wing, or the latest incarnation, the Royal Wulff, which has moose hair for the tail, white calf tail for the wing and floats like a cork.

It looks as if it may be difficult to tie but isn't really. Starting at the eye lay thread back about a quarter of the hook shank and then tie in the wing. I tie in a bunch of white Hi-Vis post style and then divide it with some figure of eight turns but white hackle tips are more traditional (and harder to work with so why make life difficult?). Bind down the butts of the wing and take thread back to just above the barb and tie in a bunch of golden pheasant tippets which should be almost the length of the hook shank. Next tie in a good fluffy strand of peacock herl and take the thread forward about a quarter shank length. Wind the herl forward a couple of turns and secure it. At the same point tie in the red silk and take the thread forward again. Wind the silk forward a few turns, secure it with a couple of thread turns and tie in the peacock herl again. Take thread to just behind the wing, wind the peacock herl forward two or three turns and tie it off. Next take a good quality brown cock hackle and tie in just behind the wing and wind it forward making two or three turns behind the wing and the same in front. Tie it off just behind the eye and finish with a small varnished head.

A good bushy Royal Coachman or Royal Wulff, which is named after Lee Wulff who devised the variant, will support a nymph hanging from the bend if you want to fish two bob each way.

A.T.

~~~~~  
~~~~~