



Hornberg

The Hornberg Special fly was designed by Conservation Warden Frank Hornberg of Portage County, Wisconsin. Circa 1950's.

Joseph Bates, in his book *Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing*, designed this fly to simulate a small minnow. Which gives rise to another old New England colloquialism: "You can't fish a Hornberg wrong". Bates' book shows the wings pinched together at the rear and cemented with lacquer to hold the shape. Many tiers leave the wing unglued.

Hornberg variations:

- Wing color is changed.
- Underbody color changed to red
- Wing feather: Mallard, bronze Mallard, Wood Duck and teal Mallard dyed in varied colors

Some tiers tie the wing tent style on top of the hook. This is a particularly useful method if the fly is to be fished dry. Dick Stewart, a well known fly tier and author from New Hampshire, advocated this method. Dick theorized that when the Hornberg is fished dry it imitates a caddis fly or an adult stone fly.

Down Wing Hornberg

Hornberg wing with a Muddler spun deer hair head in place of the hackle.

Materials

Hook :Mustad R50 94846 Debarbed

Thread: black #6

Tinsel: silver (alternative - gold)

Wing: Mallard feather, yellow hen hackle/Schlappen

Grizzley hackle

Jungle cock eyes (See note *) alternative is Guinea fowl

Lacquer / Head Cement

Tools

Fly tying vice

Scissors

Hackle pliers

Whip finishing tool

Hackle guard (optional)

Tying Technique.

1. Debarb hook
2. Secure tinsel behind eye of hook .Wrap silver tinsel from behind eye to bend of hook, then forward to behind eye of hook. Do not overlap tinsel to keep profile flat .Secure tinsel with thread.
3. Underbody tied four hook eye spaces being eye.
4. Leave adequate space behind eye.
5. Two matched mallard wings. Remove hackle to obtain long stem.
6. Tie mallard feather on each lateral side of hook. Pull stem to adjust position, so the wing positions are equal on each side.
7. Jungle cock eyes, one on each side of hook. This is to simulate the eye. Genuine Jungle cock is expensive.
NOTE * Jungle cock may not be available in the USA. If you do not have Jungle cock, a dot with a black /orange SHARPIE, and circle dot with white or silver sharpie.
Guinea Fowl feathers already have the white dots and black backgrounds. This is to simulate the eye. Find one with a white spot centered on the stem, trim the feather around the spot to leave just the single spot, then color the spot orange with a sharpie. A drop of fleximent or varnish on the feather will polish it off.
8. Two grossly hackles tied in behind eye and palmer.
9. Whip finish and apply head cement.
10. Apply small drop of lacquer or head cement to rear of mallard feathers. Pinch rear of mallard form a pointed rear taper.

Then go catch fish.