

Wood Special (aka Woods Special, aka Woodman's Special)



Side view

Top View

- Hook - Mustad 9672 or equivalent (2x heavy, 4x long streamer hook)
- Tag - Silver Tinsel
- Tail - Golden Pheasant Tippet
- Rib - Silver Tinsel
- Body - Day Glo red yarn
- Hackle - Coq de Leon hen, tied in as collar and gathered down.
- Wing - Single Wood Duck Flank feather, tied in flat

There are many variations of this fly. The body can be yarn, floss or chenille, can range from slim to very fat, and can be either red or orange. The rib can be silver or gold, the tag is often left out. The hackle can be brown, grizzly or black, and can be tied in as a beard, or a collar. If it's a collar, it can be tied in before the wing and gathered down, or wrapped after the wing and not gathered down. I've even seen it tied like dry fly hackle; in which case the fly becomes sort of a Hornberg on its side. Mallard is sometimes used for the wing, especially in larger sizes.

This is one of the most popular flies in the state of Maine, and is almost unheard of outside that state. In the spring, it's often used as a trolling fly right after ice out; in the fall it's used as a casting fly for landlocked salmon and big brook trout.

It was invented by a man names Joe Sterling, I believe sometime around the 1930's. He's the Joe of "Joe's Smelt", another flat wing streamer popular in Maine.

If you like the idea of flatwings, check out the following link, there's 15 different patterns there:
<http://globalflyfisher.com/streamers/raske/flatwing/flatwing.htm>

(and you can google Joe's Smelt.)