

The Carson

Chris Reeves

The Carson is an Irish lough-style pattern. As with so many of these flies, each person who ties it does so slightly differently and this version came to me from my old mate Norman Wells, who has fished the Irish waters many times. I was struck with the beauty of this pattern and just had to tie it. The usual method of fishing is short-lining from a drifting boat and this requires a heavily dressed fly that will stick in the surface film when dabbled in a wind. As a top dropper in a team of three short-lined in a big wave, it would take some beating.

Dressing

Hook: Partridge G3AY Sproat Wet hook or similar strong (barbless for preference!) hook, #10.

Thread: Fluorescent Green UTC 70.

Tail: Orange cock hackle fibres under bronze mallard.

Rib: Fine gold oval tinsel or gold wire.

Body: Golden olive seal's fur.

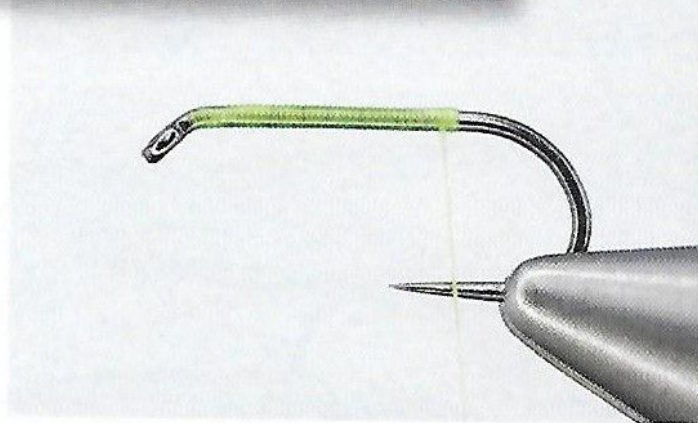
Body Hackle: Golden olive cock saddle feather.

Shoulder Hackle: Orange hen feather.

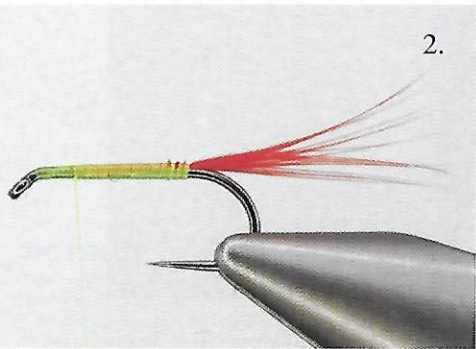
Wing: Bronze mallard fibres.

Front Hackle: Grey mallard flank dyed pale golden olive.

- 1 Lay down a bed of thread along the hook shank.

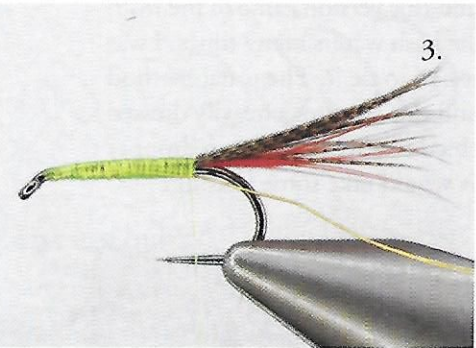


2.



2 Tie in a bunch of orange cock hackles about as long as the hook shank. Utilise any natural curve to keep the tips above the line of the shank. Bind the waste ends along the hook shank and trim away just short of the eye.

3.



3 Tie in a bunch of bronze mallard fibres on top of the orange cock hackles, equal in length. Then tie in a length of wire or oval tinsel for the rib and cover the waste ends to form an even underbody.

4.



4 Dub a tight body of seal's fur.

5.



5 Tie in the body hackle at the head, wind back in open turns then bring the rib forwards in open turns to secure it. Tie down and remove the waste tinsel and feather.

6.



6 Tie in and wind two turns of orange hen at the shoulder. Trim away the waste ends.

7.



7 Tie in a small bunch of bronze mallard on top of the hook shank to form a wing. Trim away the waste ends.

8 Tie in a dyed mallard flank feather by the tip and wrap two or three turns of it, stroking back the fibres as you do so.

Form a neat head, whip finish and varnish.

8.

