

Kilwell # One—half

By Phil Trautmann



The Kilwell # One—half is an update on an old favourite at Lake Rerewhakaaitu, where the smelt is smaller on average. It spares us the agony of tying Killer flies where one, two, or three PAIRS of DOUBLE feathers, all with a strong white stripe are required and all must be in perfect (grr) alignment. In this variant, tied on a small #10 hook, there are only two feathers, one on each side, to do the whole job. Therefore, there is a single pair of feathers with no matching. Freedom!

MATERIALS:

- Hook: #10, Kamasan B175 or similar
- Thread: 6/0 black
- Tail: Calf tail, dark brown or black
- Body: red or yellow wool. Pull off two strands
- Wing: One striped partridge feather each side at head end

METHOD:

- Cover hook with thread, from eye to rear above barb
- Tie in sparse tail, as long as the body of the fly
- Tie in wool, twist a bit, and wind to just short of eye
- Now tie in one striped feather to one side of the hook at the eye, then another opposite, the feathers enclosing the body. Whip finish. Done!

Fish slowly, with pulls and pauses. An intermediate line is best.

Thanks also to Peter Corson, who supplied us with California quail neck (shoulder?) feathers with a strong white stripe, fully equal to the partridge.