

The Matuka



As tied by John McCarron

The Matuka or streamer fly imitates a small fish. It is useful for fly fishing or jigging. This fly is tied with a matched pair of long-fibred feathers tied in at the head, with silver tinsel spiralling up the body and passing through the hackle fibres to hold them in place along the top of the hook. It takes a bit of concentration to get the wing tied on correctly and is not as easy as it looks, but the fly will not swim correctly unless it is tied on very straight.

Materials:

Hook : size #4 #6 #8 Black Magic 'A' series

Thread: black, 8/0

Tag: red or yellow hackle fibres

Rib: silver oval tinsel

Body: Chenille, red, yellow, orange or colour of your choice.

Wing: a pair of matched hackle feathers long enough to protrude a shank length behind curve of hook (It is easier to match feathers from a cape.) 3-4 strands of crystal flash.

Hackle: a feather from the same cape as the wing.

Sticky eyes if desired

Method:

1. Lay in a thread base, leaving room for the head at the eye and stopping at the bend of the hook, then tie in the tag fibres and trim with a taper.
2. Tie in the tinsel at the back of the hook (the side facing away from you) so the first turn is 3-4ml up from the tail.
3. Tie in chenille on top of the hook, take thread to head, then spiral chenille up the body and tie off and trim making sure you leave room for the head.
4. Now take your two matched feathers and hold them back-to-back, ensuring the tips are even. Hold the butts at the head so that the wing protrudes about a shank-length at the back. Make sure the wing lays straight along the top of the hook before you secure it firmly and trim.
5. Now wind the tinsel in a spiral up the body over the feather stems and between the hackle fibres. About four turns is good. Secure at the head and cut off any surplus. If you want bling, tie in 3 or 4 pieces of crystal flash now.
6. Tie in the hackle feather at the head, shiny side out. Spiral 3 or 4 turns before tying and trimming. Hold hackle fibres back along hook and tie them so they angle backwards.
7. Complete with a neat bullet head and whip finish. If desired, add eyes and coat with UV glue using a UV torch to harden it.