

# FLY DRESSER





# Dressing the Rosy Dawn

## PART 1

Paul Little

Foreword by Terry Griffiths

In the middle of the extreme heat of the summer of 2003 the Editor had Paul Little to stay over for a couple of days - we were to go fishing - carping. On a day between fishings, a bait preparation day, having a couple of spare hours, we decided to attempt to share some of Paul's fly-tying skills with the reader.....

So he set about to tie a Rosie Dawn, an original fly by T. E. Pryce-Tannatt.

The camera set-up is quite informal, and the lighting was just a simple dedicated flash unit mounted on the camera.

There was no time for re-takes, so what

follows in words and pictures is a mini diary shot in the space of less than two hours - largely due to the impatience of the photographer to 'get on with it'.....!

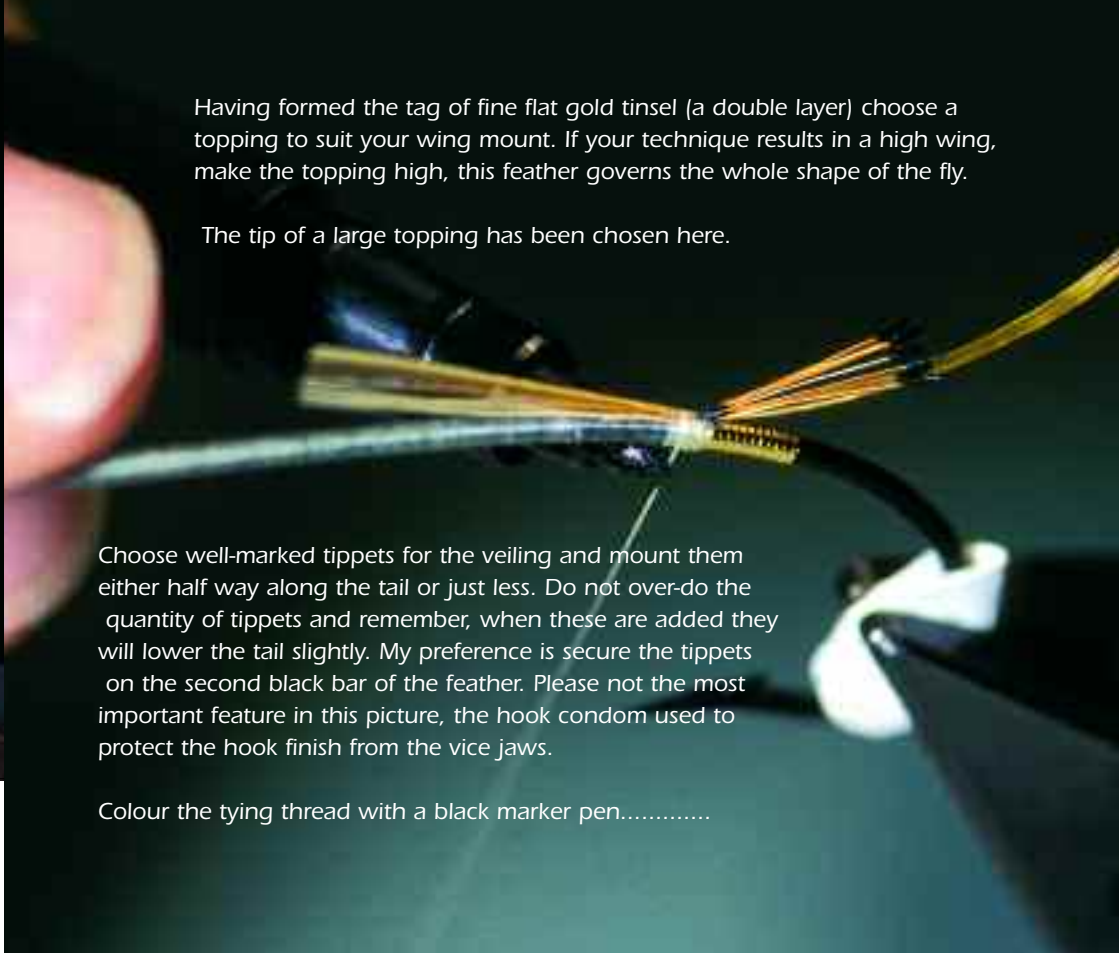
There are many parts of this sequence which are simple to understand and replicate, but if any readers have any questions, I'm sure Paul will be able to fill the gaps in, in subsequent issues of Flydresser.

In the next issue we go beyond the body work, and onto the preparation and setting of the wing.



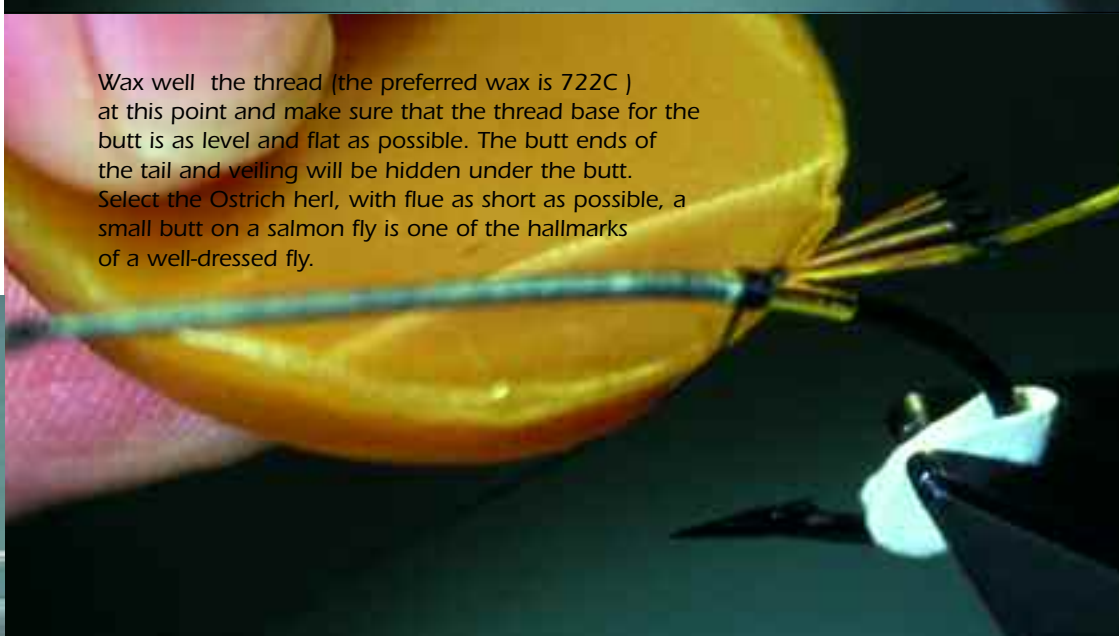
Having formed the tag of fine flat gold tinsel (a double layer) choose a topping to suit your wing mount. If your technique results in a high wing, make the topping high, this feather governs the whole shape of the fly.

The tip of a large topping has been chosen here.




Choose well-marked tippets for the veiling and mount them either half way along the tail or just less. Do not over-do the quantity of tippets and remember, when these are added they will lower the tail slightly. My preference is secure the tippets on the second black bar of the feather. Please not the most important feature in this picture, the hook condom used to protect the hook finish from the vice jaws.

Colour the tying thread with a black marker pen.....




Wax well the thread (the preferred wax is 722C ) at this point and make sure that the thread base for the butt is as level and flat as possible. The butt ends of the tail and veiling will be hidden under the butt. Select the Ostrich herl, with flue as short as possible, a small butt on a salmon fly is one of the hallmarks of a well-dressed fly.

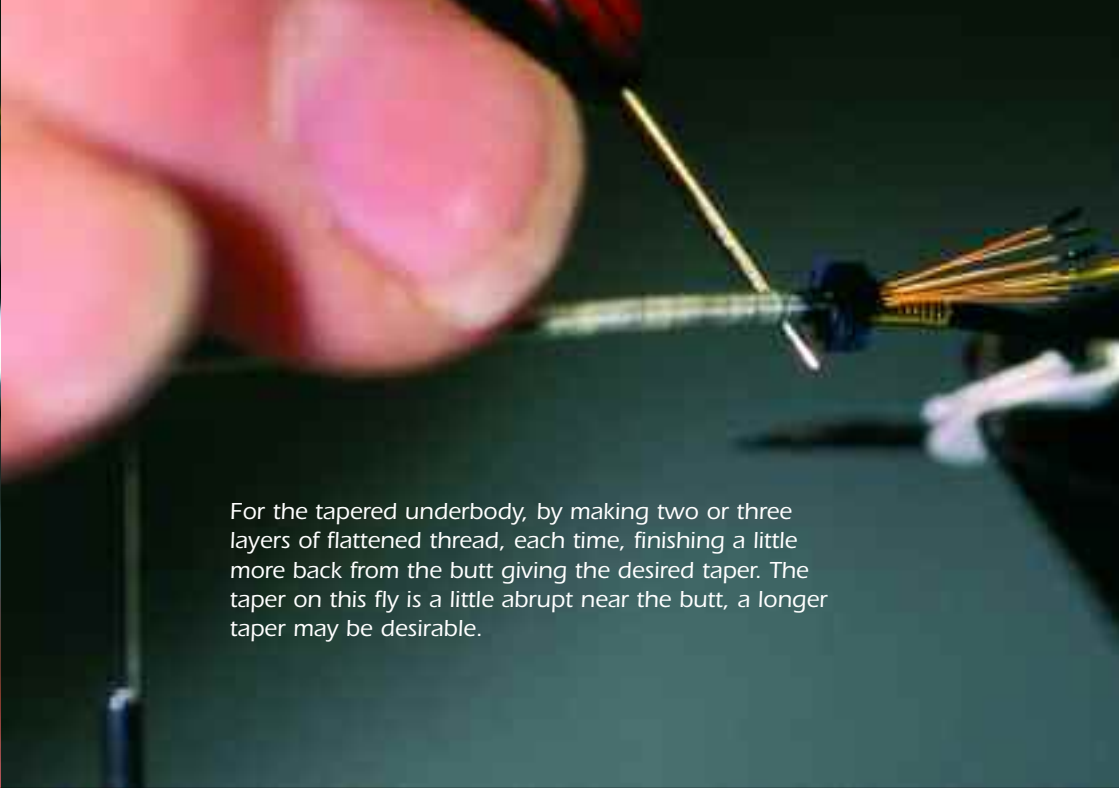
A close-up photograph of a fishing hook with a herl being wound. The herl is a long, thin, light-colored material with a textured surface. It is being wound in overlapping turns around the hook. The hook is dark and has a blue knot at the eye. The background is dark and out of focus.

Wind the ostrich herl in overlapping turns towards the eye. Remember, to achieve this, the side of the stalk to which the herl is attached, must face towards the hook bend.

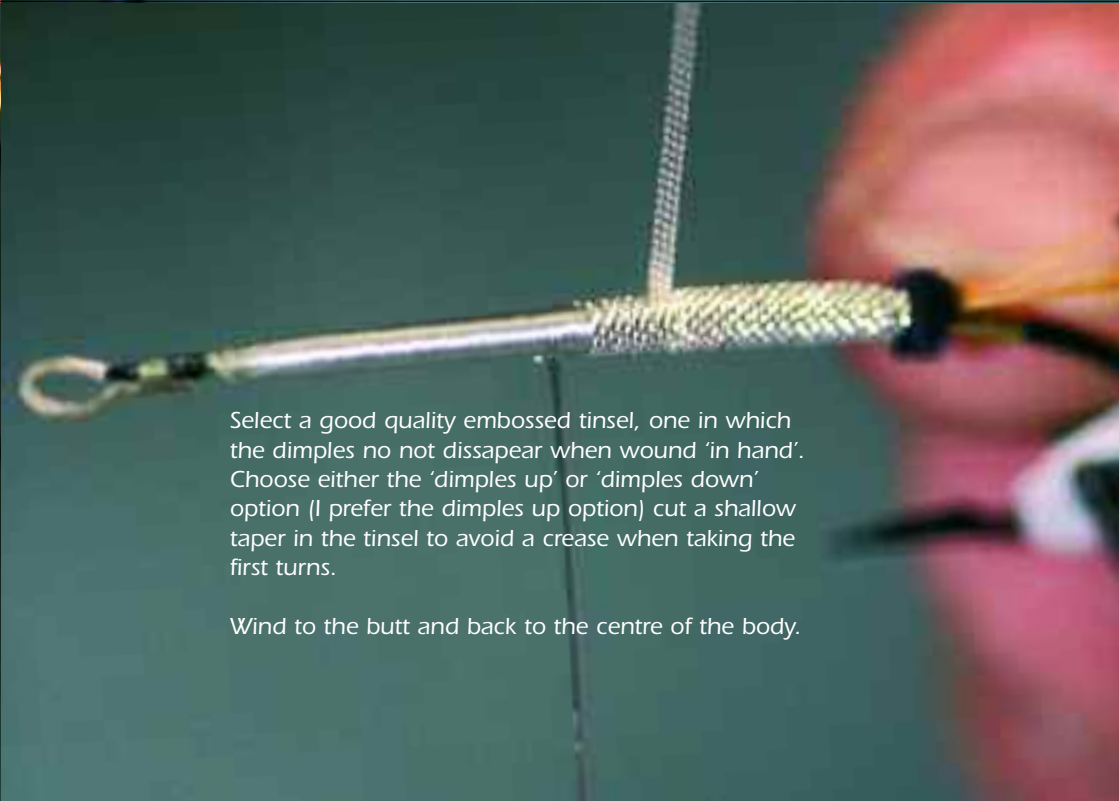
Waxing the thread allows the herl to be wound in slightly overlapping turns without each turn falling off the previous turn.

A close-up photograph of a fishing hook with a herl being wound. The herl is a long, thin, light-colored material with a textured surface. It is being wound in overlapping turns around the hook. The hook is dark and has a blue knot at the eye. The background is dark and out of focus.

Take the tying silk to the eye of the hook and whip finish and attach the UNI 210 denier to form a tapered under body.



For the tapered underbody, by making two or three layers of flattened thread, each time, finishing a little more back from the butt giving the desired taper. The taper on this fly is a little abrupt near the butt, a longer taper may be desirable.



Select a good quality embossed tinsel, one in which the dimples do not disappear when wound 'in hand'. Choose either the 'dimples up' or 'dimples down' option (I prefer the dimples up option) cut a shallow taper in the tinsel to avoid a crease when taking the first turns.

Wind to the butt and back to the centre of the body.

Choose a vivid magenta hackle (this colour of hackle is sometimes referred to in the old patterns as a Lake hackle) where the length of the fibre does not exceed the gape of the hook.



Double the hackle and tie in by the tip (in this instance, the hackle may be doubled after tying in) such that when wound, the hackle fibres point rearward. Four or five touching turns should be enough. Pull the fibres rearward with each turn ensuring that there are no recalcitrant fibres. The use of an eyebrow brush to 'comb' out the fibres is a good idea.

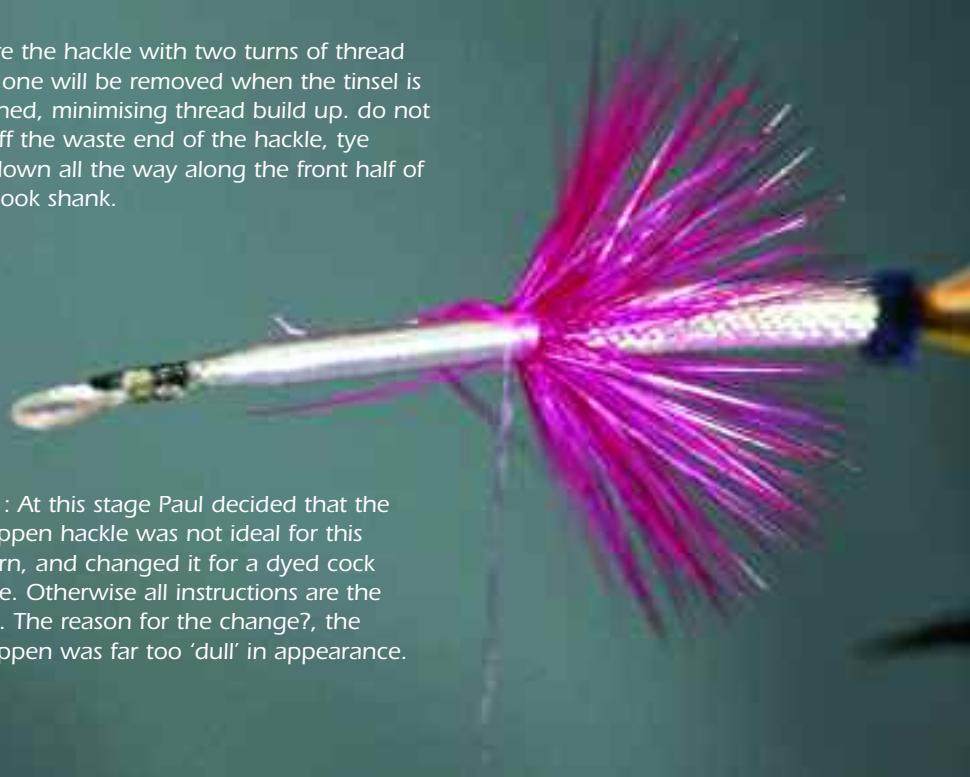
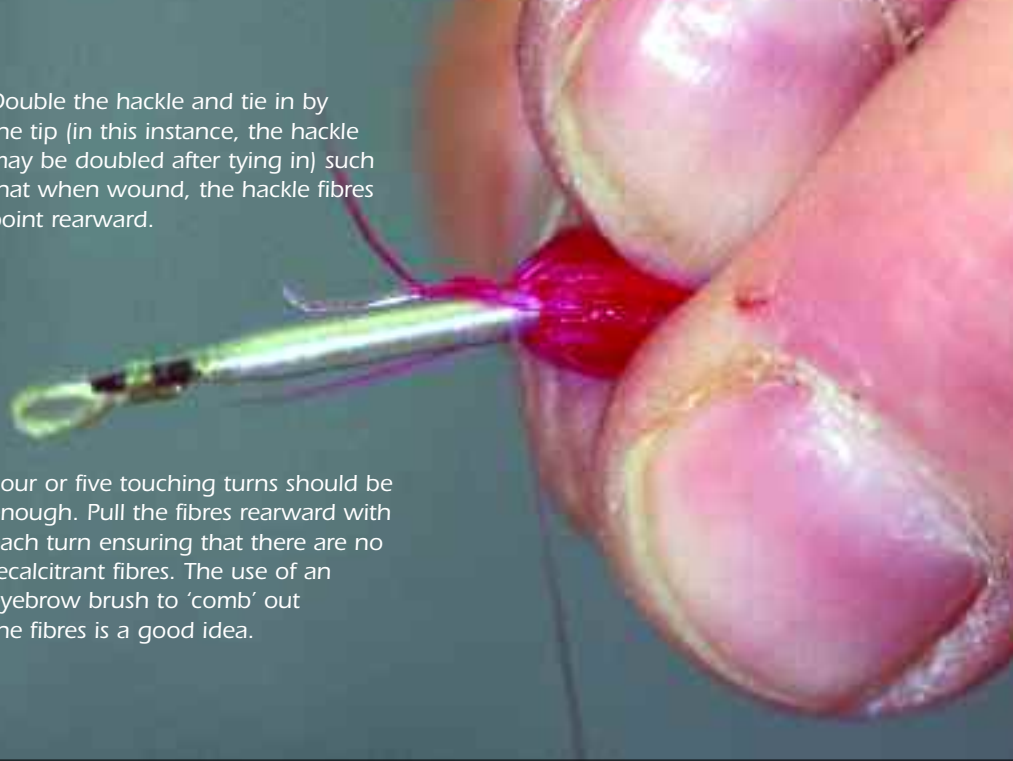


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Secure the hackle with two turns of thread only, one will be removed when the tinsel is attached, minimising thread build up. do not cut off the waste end of the hackle, tye this down all the way along the front half of the hook shank.

Note : At this stage Paul decided that the schlappen hackle was not ideal for this pattern, and changed it for a dyed cock hackle. Otherwise all instructions are the same. The reason for the change?, the schlappen was far too 'dull' in appearance.

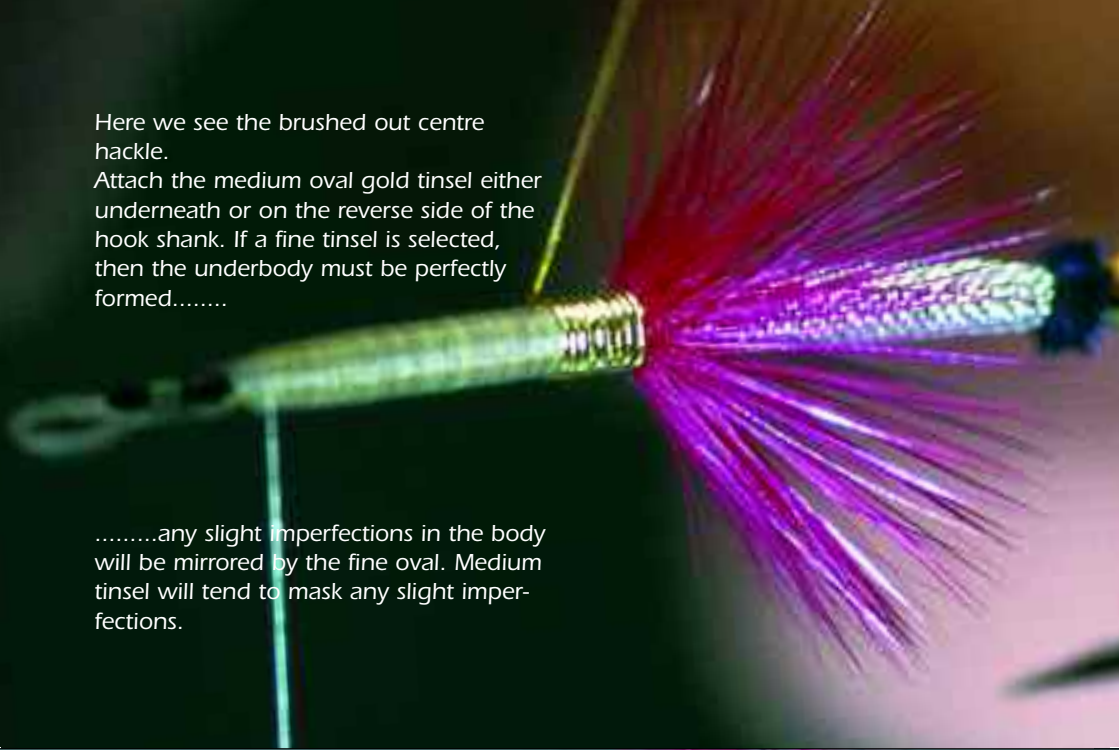


Here we see the brushed out centre hackle.

Attach the medium oval gold tinsel either underneath or on the reverse side of the hook shank. If a fine tinsel is selected, then the underbody must be perfectly formed.....

.....any slight imperfections in the body will be mirrored by the fine oval. Medium tinsel will tend to mask any slight imperfections.

Wind the oval tinsel towards the eye in touching turns, it may help if the tinsel is wound such that each new turn is allowed to slightly overlap the previous turn, such that it 'falls off' the previous turn when wound.



# Rosy Dawn -

## Postscript to PART 1

The preceding twelve stages featured in this article form the building blocks for some interesting stages in tying the Rosy Dawn, and we hope they will go some way to help readers' understanding of some of the finer points of this fascinating artform.

- It is important when dressing the fly, not make the mistake of hurrying through these early stages to arrive at the more interesting parts i.e. the wing.

- The 'base' work can, by being ill-considered, just as easily destroy the overall look of the fly.

- Remember that a well-dressed fly has **all** its components dressed neatly and in proportion, nothing is left to chance.

- Take care when it comes to the floss underbody (burnishing the silk before finishing), make touching turns of tinsel when wrapping the body tinsels, and it helps to make a 'solid' looking butt by careful selection of the ostrich herl.

- Most of all, pay particular attention in choosing a tail of correct length and make sure of the height of the tail when mounted. This feather above all others will determine the overall shape of the fly. Too high a tail may make the under-wing overpower the over-wing of the fly.

Tyer's Note : As with any fly-tying exercise changes of mind are par for the course as the job progresses.

This job was no exception, as we progressed, it became apparent that the schlappen hackle chosen for the mid-hackle did not look right, so it was decided to substitute it for a cock hackle.

And almost immediately the size of the gold oval tinsel seemed to be incorrect, and again was changed for a bolder version, as is apparent.

All this comes as the hazard of working with a fly-tying photographer who questions everything, and knows noth.....!