
FLY OF THE MONTH

THE ROYAL COACHMAN TRUDE

Hook:	Dry fly hook - TMC 900 Size #16-#8
Thread:	Black - 8/0 or 6/0
Tail:	Golden Pheasant Tippets
Body:	Peacock herl at both ends of a band of red floss
Wing:	White calf tail
Hackle:	Brown saddle or neck hackle
Head:	Tying thread



1. Wrap a layer of thread from just forward of the half-way point back to the bend of the hook. Take the thread back to the tie on point. Tie a small bunch of golden pheasant tippets to the hook shank at the tie in point, and wrap back to the bend of the hook. The tail should extend beyond the bend about the length of the hook.
2. Tie in a couple of peacock herls, by the tips, at the hook bend. Wrap the herls around the tying thread to reinforce the herl. (Note: Before tying the herl on break off the fragile tips) Wind the herl/thread rope forward a few turns creating a short band of peacock herl.
3. Tie off the herl/thread rope and move the thread forward to where the 2nd band of herl will begin. At this point tie on a piece of red floss. Wrap the floss back to the 1st band of peacock and then wrap it forward to the point where the floss was tied on. Make sure you get good coverage of hook shank with the red floss.
4. Now create the second herl band as you did in step number 2. Secure and trim the excess material. This peacock herl, floss and peacock herl body should cover a little more than half of the hook shank.
5. Select a bunch of white calf tail, comb and stack it. Calf tail does not stack well so you may have to manipulate some of the hairs with your fingers to even up your wing. (more about calf tail later) Tie the wing on top of the shank just in front of the body. It should lay back over the body extending to about half way down the tail. Trim the wing material butts at an angle. Tie down the butts creating a base for wrapping the hackle.
6. Select and size two brown neck hackles or one saddle hackle. Tie the hackle on in front of the wing. Wrap the 2 neck hackles forward to just behind the eye - one hackle at a time. If you used saddle hackle it would be long enough that you could wrap the one hackle forward. Build a neat thread head, whip finish and apply head cement.

This dry fly does not imitate anything so it must be an attractor pattern. Like many other attractor patterns it catches fish and that is what matters. It is a great fly for fast water. The white wing makes it easy to see.

Now for more about calf tails. When you buy your calf tail, look over the tails available and select the one with the longest and straightest hair. Take it home and give it a good bath using shampoo (Not your wife's). Any cheap shampoo will do. After shampooing use some cheap conditioner on it. Then if your wife isn't home use her dryer to dry it as you brush or comb it out. If she is home I don't know what to tell you. I salvaged one my wife was throwing away years ago. Be sure it is totally dry before you store it away. If you store it wet you will have a moldy mess.

If you take a little extra time to shampoo and condition your calf tail you will find it much easier to use.

GOOD FISHING AND TYING, Tom Smith

