

ELVER FLY

Hook - Double/Single 2 - 6
Tag - Silver Wire
Rib - Silver Wire
Body - Silver tinsel
Wing - Jungle Cock
Hackle - Blue Guinea Fowl
Eyes - Jungle Cock
Head - Red



Secure the hook in the vice. Run the tying thread down the hook in close turns to opposite the hook points tying in a length of Silver Wire on the way down. Tie in a length of Flat Silver tinsel. Take the thread back to the head and trim any waste. Apply a coat of superglue to the underbody and then wind the flat tinsel to the head forming an even body. Take 4 close turns of the wire at the back and then rib the body with the wire. Tie in and trim off the waste.

Now give the whole body another coat of superglue. When that is dry give the body a coat or two of nail varnish.

This is the way I protect all of my tinsel bodies but I find that the nearer to the Sea you get, and this fly was originally designed for those lower reaches of the river, the Sewin seem to have sharper teeth and destroy a normal body.

Take a pair of feathers, one from each side so the curve lines up, from the top of a Jungle Cock cape and strip off the fluffy waste at the base. If you can use a dyed Light Blue one then even better.

Tie one in one on each side of the fly so that they are just higher but following the line of the body. Tie in a dyed Blue Guinea Fowl hackle by the tip. Double it and wind 2 turns. Tie in and trim off. Prepare and tie in a fairly large pair of Jungle eyes and bind in tightly, trim the waste.

Form the head and whip finish. Coat the head with superglue. When that is dry give the head a coat or two of nail varnish.

This fly was devised by Arthur Ransome. The original used Vulturine Guinea Fowl feathers The wing feathers had blue edges and the hackle used the Cobalt Blue neck feather. These are now rare and if you can find them they will cost at least £5 per feather. Expensive when you put the fly in a tree. That's why we use substitutes.