

Black Ghost

September 22, 2002

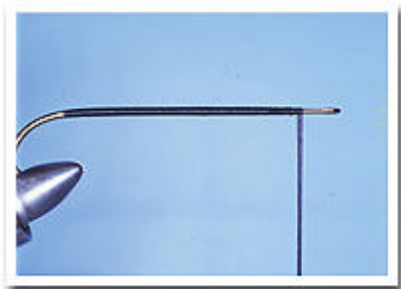
Okay, fall is here, and it's a wonderful time to be on your favorite river or lake. For me, autumn shows off Mother Nature at her best. And as the water cools, the trout respond to relief from the summer doldrums and become active again.

With insect activity minimal, trout are foraging for alternative foods, and at times can be quite aggressive. It's a great time to fish a streamer that suggests a tasty baitfish. Here's a new wrinkle on an old, well-proven pattern, the Black Ghost. It incorporates a different wing material; Llama hair, mixed with some glittery synthetic. If the trout don't take this fly, it won't be because they can't see it. This is a product of Root's Fly Tying Materials.

The Dressing:

Hook	Streamer-style. Here, my Daiichi model 2370.
Thread	Black Uni-Stretch, mounted in a bobbin.
Tail	Yellow hackle barbs or fine marabou.
Body	The Uni-Stretch.
Ribbing	Flat silver tinsel, narrow to medium.
Throat	Same as tail.
Wing	The afore-mentioned Llama with glitter added.
Eyes	(optional but desirable) Stick-on, coated with adhesive.

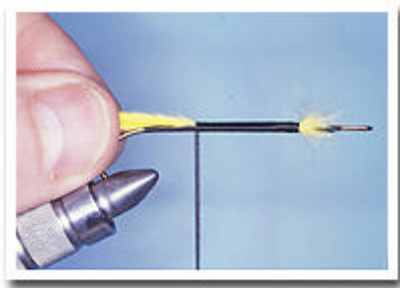
Tying Procedure:



Step 1. With the bobbin-mounted Uni-Stretch, tie on near the eye and wrap to the bend, then forward again. Hint: for smoothest result, spin the bobbin counterclockwise a few times now and then, in order to remove twists introduced by the wrapping process.



Step 2. Tie on the tail material as shown -- yes, near the front. You'll see why in the next step.



Step 3. By tying the tailing material on well forward, you can stretch it tight from the rear while wrapping the body. Thus, two problems are solved; keeping the body smooth and lump-free, and having to attempt to wrap over loose, floppy material with no way to hold it in place.



Step 4. Build up the body a little with a couple of additional layers of Uni-Stretch, meanwhile tying in the ribbing tinsel during one of these sequences. Wrap the ribbing, keeping the turns well-spaced.

Black Ghost continued



Step 5. Separate a strand of the enhanced Llama hair half as thick as you want for the wing, and tie it in by the center, as shown.



Step 6. Fold the strand that's hanging forward back over the other and wrap over at the front to integrate the two. This also begins the shaping of the head.



Step 7. Add the beard and the eyes, then apply a coat or two of a strong adhesive. Epoxy, of course, works fine; however, I find that the thicker version of Soft Body from Angler's Choice is perfectly adequate, and much easier to use. Note the moderate amount of flash created by the glitter mixed in with the Llama. Finish the fly by carefully trimming the rear of the wing to the desired shape and length.

I've been addicted to Uni-Stretch in a bobbin since it first appeared almost 20 years ago. What a wonderful combination! I consider it the aging fly tier's replacement for sex. By the way; you might try substituting hot orange for the traditional yellow in the tail and throat. This sometimes works better, especially in brook trout country.

For other Fly Tying Projects, please visit my website at www.dicktalleur.com. You will also find information about past and upcoming guided fishing trips, my books and instructional videotapes, recommended products, and upcoming classes and shows.

