

Steve Yeoman's Flies Of The Year

Steve Yeoman's is the man behind the Midlands Fly Fishing School. Here he shares his top flies for the rivers and stillwaters.



As a full-time instructor and guide I sometimes need flies that offer fish something slightly different from what they see daily. My philosophy is simple. I want flies to be effective, yet quick to tie. That way I don't worry about casting them into the snag holes where big fish lurk. Here I share four that work when the going gets tough!



Super-Fast Copper John

I've kept the key fish-catching features of John Barr's original fly, while stripping out the more time-consuming tying elements, hence the variant name. It works well on lakes and rivers, although I tend to use it as a river pattern. It cuts quickly through the current while offering a general nymph profile to fish. It's also great for stalking with on clear lakes. Experiment with bead and wire colours.

Hook: Nymph, size 14-22

Bead: Black tungsten

Thread: Black **Tail:** Black pheasant tail **Body/rib:** Black UTC Ultra wire

Thorax: Peacock Glister

Hare's Ear Emerger

The Hare's Ear is a brilliant fly in its many versions. As a general emerger pattern that sits right in the surface film it's deadly. I carry black, brown, grey and olive versions, plus some subtle colour blends and seasonal variants such as mayfly. Try varying the tying from super-sparse to quite chunky, changing the profile.

Hook: Dry fly, size 12-24

Thread: Black **Tail:** Plain Aero Dry wing

Body: Natural hare's ear fur

Rib: Fine copper wire

Thorax: Orange hare's ear fur

Wired Midge

This is an ultra-sparse, bloodworm/ buzzer pattern that works well when trout have had a lot of fishing pressure. I use it as a single fly when targeting trout lazily nymphing in stillwaters or slower sections of river. I also use it as part of a team in both point and dropper positions, or New Zealand style behind a dry fly.

Hook: Red shrimp/buzzer hook, size 16-22

Body/rib/thorax: Black or olive UTC Ultra wire **Finish:** Coat wire with superglue

Marabou Nymph

This tying is a brilliant buzzer pattern, providing mobility, just like the swimming natural. I mainly use it as a dropper fly, however a lightly leaded version makes a great point fly too. Experiment with different material colours and hook sizes to suggest a variety of trout prey. Keep it really sparse though, it's what makes it different.

Hook: Nymph or buzzer styles, size 14-20 **Thread:** Black

Tail and body: Black marabou

Rib: Fine silver wire

Thorax: Peacock Glister

Breathers: Pearl Lite-Brite

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