

Quite a while ago, my good friend Dave Green and I started a ritual. It involved beer, big trout and spinner falls and it happened every Monday evening for several years. It would start with a phone call to make certain that we were on the same page and then, around 6:00pm we would make our way, ever so casually to a pre-determined piece of water. Once there, we would take up station, open a beer and talk about things other than fish and fishing and just get lost for an hour or so. But what always jolted us back to reality was the first sighting of a spinner over the water. (See this month's "Learning" page) That's what we were there for and that's when we became more business like and got serious. Every night was different and I learned something about mayfly spinners each time out to the point that I started thinking about a better pattern than what existed. Dave and I always worked well together and would often bounce stuff off each other in the quest for better mousetrap.

We both have different responsibilities now and don't get to fish together as much as we would like but I know that he would agree that of the ideas that came from our times on the water, The GH Spinner is probably our greatest. The fly went through many changes over the years but I have settled on this pattern as the final draft. (The only other change is the addition of a 'high vis' post for low light conditions) It is fairly easy to tie and covers most spinners between and sizes 18 and 10. With died peacock herl, the color range is endless.

Dave once declared, after hooking several fish very deep in the mouths that the pattern worked too well and the fish took it too deep but you can be the judge. Set the hook fast and hold on.

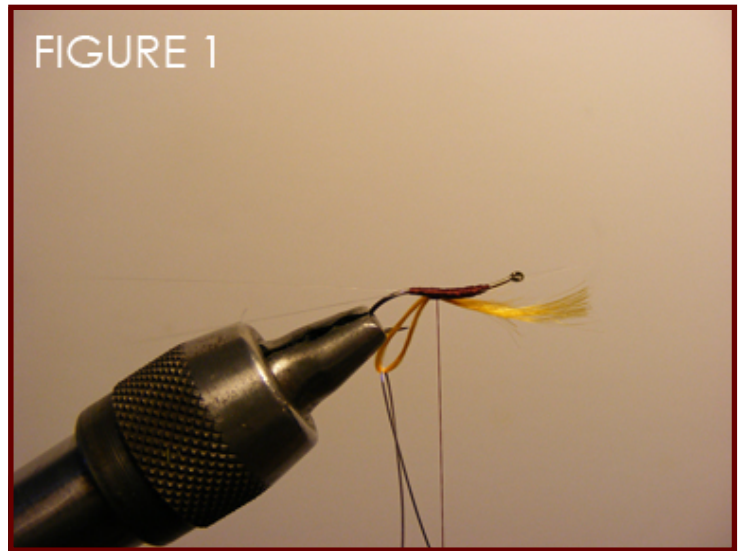
GH SPINNER

Hook: Daiichi 1770 or equivalent swimming nymph.
Thread: Griffiths sheer
Tail: Microfibers or paint brush fibers
Body: Stripped peacock herl
Egg sack: Silk or uni-stretch to match color of natural
Abdomen: Peacock herl
Wings: Blend of organza and antron

Instructions:

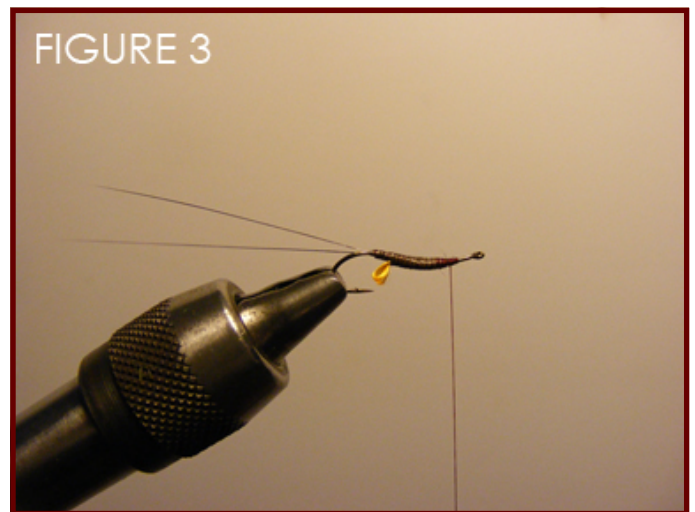
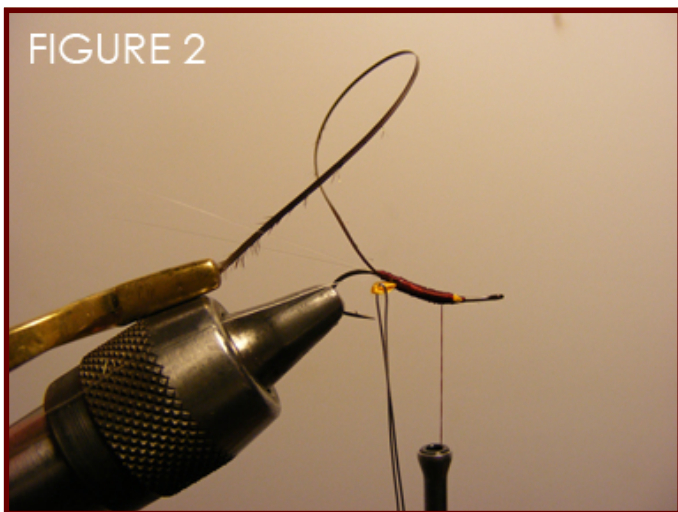
Step 1.

Begin by laying down a nice, tapered base layer with the taper growing larger towards the eye. Secure your fibers in as tails at the sides of the shank precisely at the beginning of the turn in the hook and splay. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the body, secure a doubled over piece of silk or uni-stretch for the egg sack. The sack can be difficult to work around so insert a piece of wire through the loop so that you can manipulate the sack when wrapping the body. (Figure 1) Pull the egg sack material forward by the tag ends until desired length is reached.



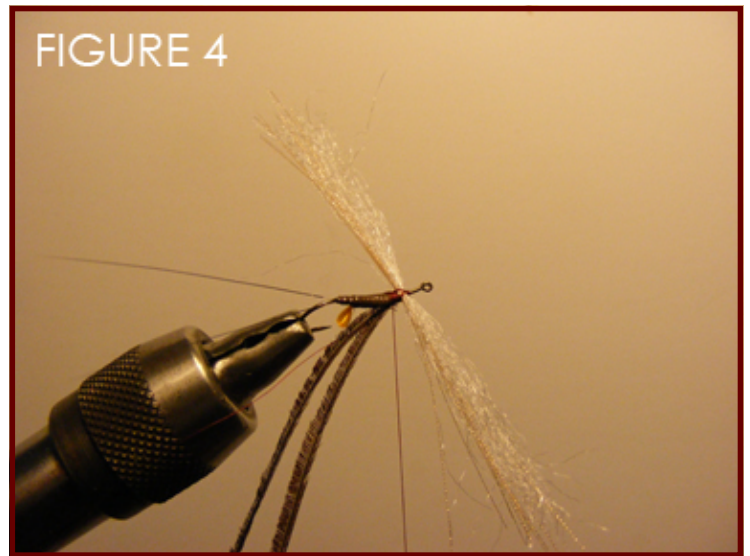
Step 2.

Prepare a piece of peacock herl by stripping off the barbules with your thumb and fore finger. This requires some finesse to not break the quill but if done gently, you should be able to strip off all of the barbules. Secure that length by the tip to the hook where the tails begin. Bring your thread forward to about $\frac{2}{3}$ the hook length. (Figure 2) Using the wire to hold the egg sack forward, gently wrap the quill forward to the same position. (Figure 3)



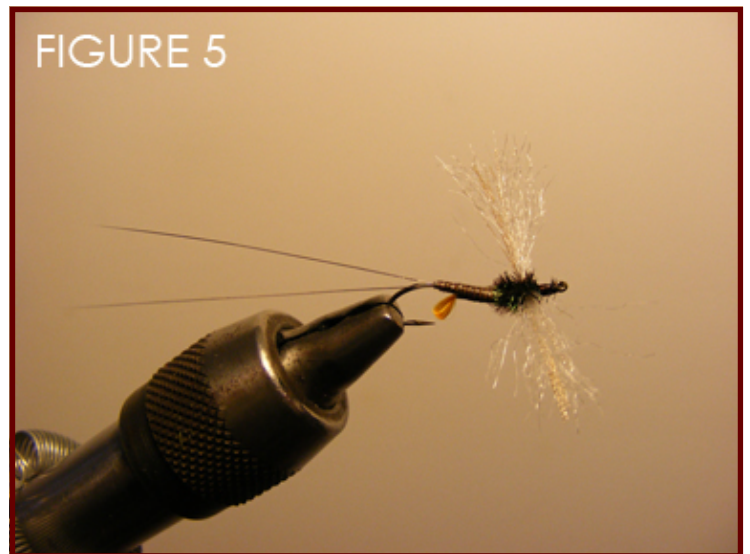
Step 3.

Prepare the organza and antron by blending the two together and leave it aside. You will need two pieces of peacock herl for the abdomen and a piece of loose thread. Secure the herl and the thread to the hook shank at about the 2/3rds point. Secure the wings perpendicular to the shank at the 3/4 point and cross secure in place. (Figure 4) Twist the herl with the thread (to make it stronger) until it resembles chenille and wrap it forward around the shank to the eye. Finish the head, whip and cement.



Step 4.

Cut the wings to about the length of the overall body and trim to shape. The wings should lay flat like that of a spent wing spinner and the tails should be horizontal. (Figure 5) I colored the tails and made the egg sack larger for the purpose of photographing. The egg sack should be about half the size as shown.



Rob's tip of the month:

When using herl, be it peacock or ostrich; wrap it in a dubbing loop or at least one strand of thread. This will render the material far stronger and easier to work with.