



Black Spade

Bob Arnold

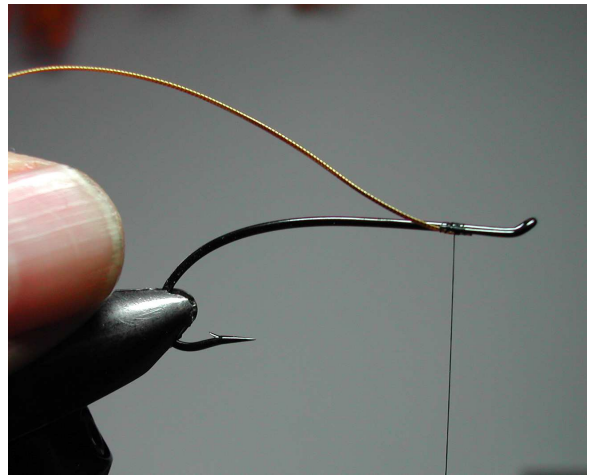
Tag and Rib - Gold tinsel
Body - Black Iridescent Dubbing
Hackle - Natural Guinea
Wing - Black Squirrel Tail

Tying the Black Spade



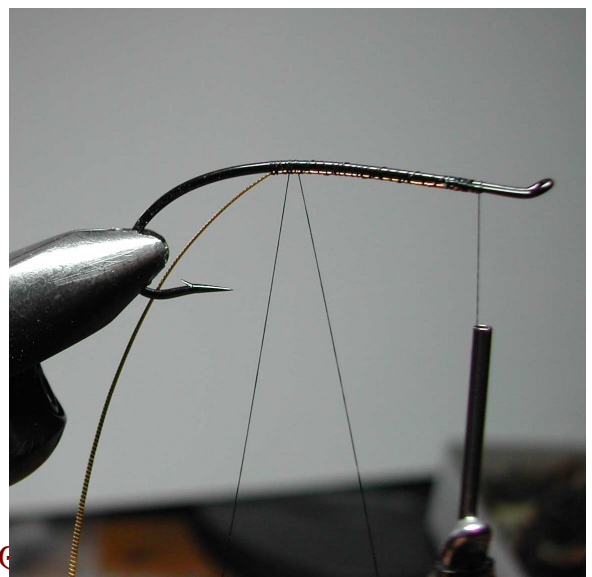
Start by attaching the thread to the front of the hook and use the thread to bind the hook return closed.

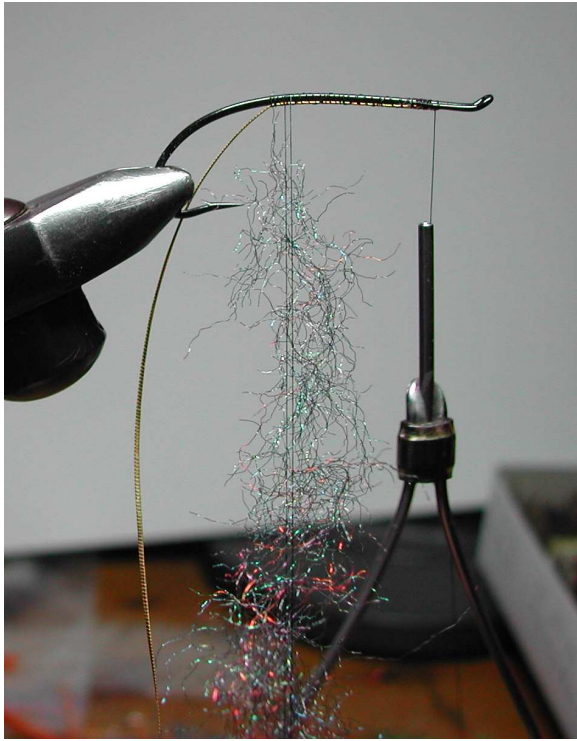
Using the thread attach the flat tinsel to the hook, right under the loop return. We tie things in at this point to even up the transition from the hook shank to the front of the hook. Pull the tinsel back and bind it down with the thread to just in front of the hook point.



Advance the thread two wraps of tinsel forward. This will allow space for two tight turns of tinsel in the rear as a tag.

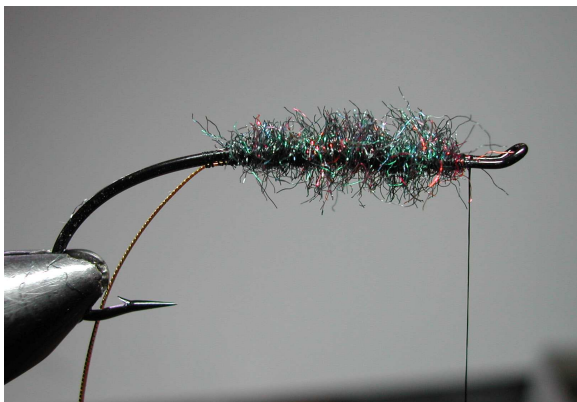
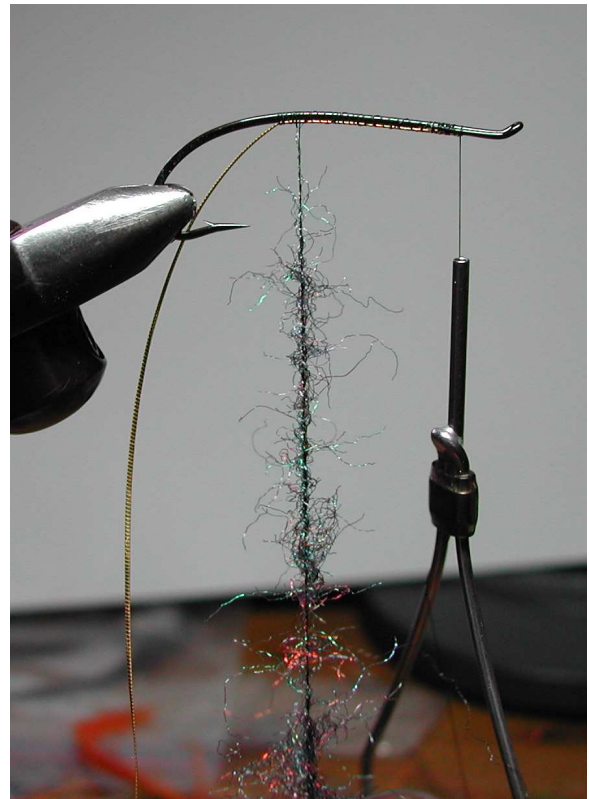
Create a dubbing loop and advance the tying thread to about 1/8" behind the hook eye.





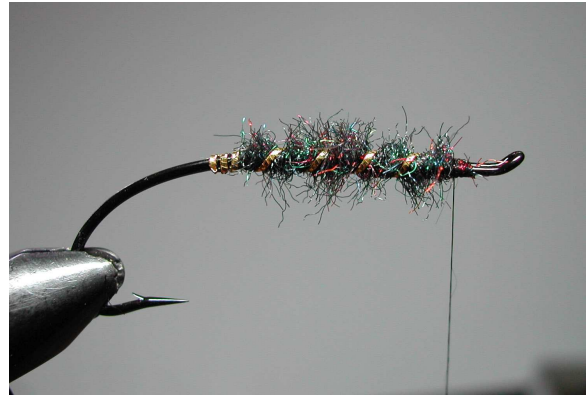
Load the dubbing loop with a small amount of dubbing. Be careful here to make the loop full of dubbing feature the characteristics you desire in the finished body. If you want a tapered body then the dubbing loop must acquire more and more material so it is tapered. We do not wrap over the body, ever. If we want a thin, sparse body then go sparse and thin on the dubbing loop. If it looks like you have too little dubbing in the loop you are probably right on the money.

Spin the dubbing loop tight and check it to make sure it looks exactly as you wish the body to look when finished. If necessary a bit here and there to make it right.



When it looks good wrap the body in abutting wraps towards the front of the hook. Remember we will not ever wrap over the body with more material.

Wrap the ribbing forward in 4 nice turns. Work to keep them evenly spaced. Note the nice even body. This is a good skill to practice until you have excellent control of the dubbing process. Also note the rib here is a bit over scale to make it easier to see in the pictures.



Stroke the fibers on the Guinea feather to make them loosen and stand horizontal. Attach the tip of the Guinea feather right in front of the body. Trim it tight so we do not crowd the head. Next take one blade of the scissor and run it over the far side of the hackle to angle the fibers a bit towards the rear. This will cause the fibers to lay perfectly when wrapped. The technique is called folding.

Wrap two turns of Guinea and stroke and work the feathers so the natural curve of the feather takes it over the body and back. You can wrap 1, 1.5, 2, whatever number of turns you need to get the density you are looking for. Choose a feather which almost reaches the point of the hook. In the picture I would consider this fly HEAVILY hackled.



Pull a bit of the squirrel tail perpendicular to the tail to even the tips. This gives a much more natural looking fly than stacking. Pull tight to the top of the hook and wrap tightly. Glue the head and fish it!