

# Signal Light Spey

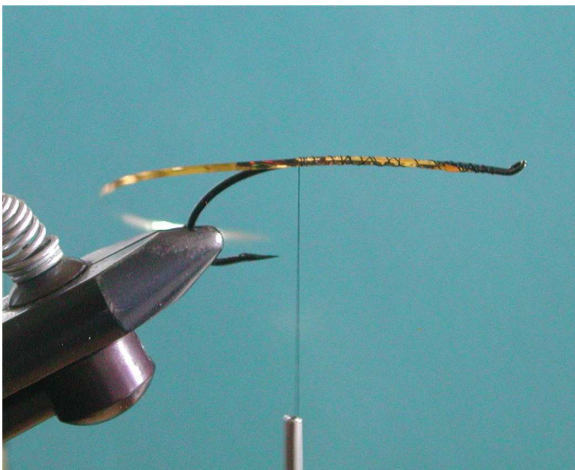
Jack Cook



Hook – Alec Jackson Spey, Black  
Thread – Pearsall's Gossamer #9, Black  
Tag and Underlayment – Flat Gold Tinsel  
Butt – Alec Jackson Premium Silk Floss #50, Red, #9 Highlander Green  
Spey Hackle – Steelhead Anglers Spey Hackle, Black  
Rib – Oval Gold Tinsel, 3/0-1.5 M, 3-5 S  
Body – Ronn Lucas Iridescent Dubbing, Black  
Collar – Guinea Fowl, Natural or Purple  
Wing – Tips from Black Spey Hackle

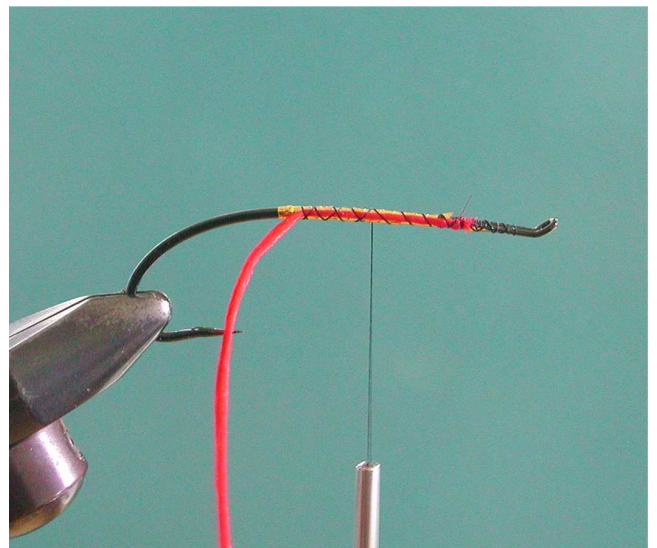
# Tying the Signal Light Spey

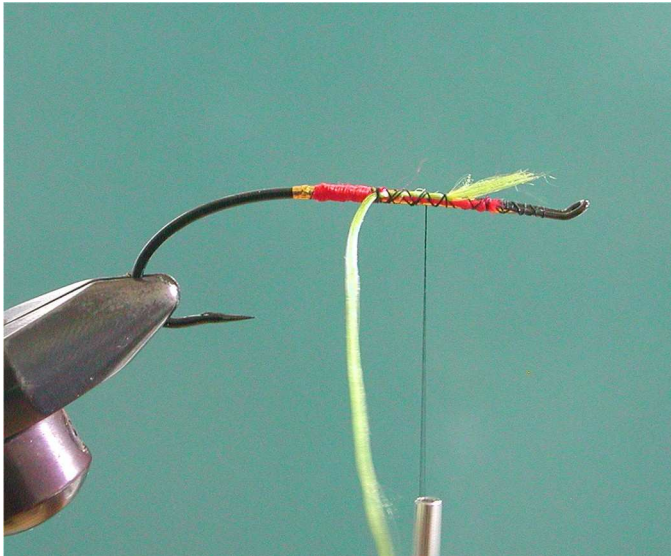
Begin by looking carefully at the example fly I have given you. Remember the details of it as we tie the fly step by step. Keep it nearby where you can refer to it. If after any step the new fly does not look like the sample fly, back up and repeat the step carefully until it does. A fly will never get better looking by building on over a mistake. Start by securing the black silk tying thread to the rear of an Alec Jackson Spey, Standard Wire, Black finish hook. Leave the thread hanging just in front of the hook point. Do not build up a lump of thread here. One or two wraps will do. When you are laying a smooth layer of silk or tinsel on the hook you must ensure that the underlying surface is smooth or the applied material will be bumpy and look poor.



The next step is to tie in the flat tinsel. Colored silk wrapped over a black hook will turn very dark when wet so we underlay the silk butt with gold tinsel. Cut a piece of tinsel about 6 inches long, this will do 3-4 speys. Secure it at the tie in point and wrap forward about half an inch. Wrap tightly instead of using a lot of thread. Tension is better than bulk and keep it smooth. Start wrapping the tinsel with the gold side out. Wrap smoothly and about the wraps so we don't build up a lot of tinsel. Tie off with a couple of tight wraps

The next step is to tie in the red silk floss. Cut a piece of floss about 6 inches long, this will do 3-4 speys. Tie it in at the front of the tinsel leaving about half an inch protruding toward the hook eye. Do **NOT** cut this tag. Wrap the silk with tying thread toward the rear of the fly until about an eighth of an inch of tag is left and then wrap forward. Keep thing smooth and flat. Pull a good deal of tension on the silk floss and wrap it carefully and smoothly and cover about 1/4 inch of hook shank. The wraps should abut but not overlap. No gold tinsel should show through the cracks. It takes 3-4 wraps to get to where we want to be. At that point secure the floss with 2 wraps of tying silk and cut off the silk floss but leave a tag to reach to the eye loop back point. We use these materials as we go to build up the body to be smooth at the place where the tapered eye ends.





The next step is to tie in the green silk floss. Cut a piece of floss about 6 inches long, this will do 3-4 speys. Tie it in at the front of the tinsel leaving about half an inch protruding toward the hook eye. Do **NOT** cut this tag. Wrap the silk with tying thread toward the rear of the fly until you hit the red silk and then wrap forward. Keep thing smooth and flat. Pull a good deal of tension on the silk floss and wrap it carefully and smoothly and cover about 1/4 inch of hook shank. The wraps should abut but not overlap. No gold tinsel should show through the cracks. It takes 3-4

wraps to get to where we want to be. At that point secure the floss with 2 wraps of tying silk and cut off the silk floss but leave a tag to reach to the eye loop back point. We use these materials as we go to build up the body to be smooth at the place where the tapered eye ends.

Next we prepare and tie in the spey hackle. Take one of the spey hackles and with your scissors remove all the feather from one side of the stem. Keep the best side. When we wrap the hackle the stem will be against the hook so the side you cut determines which direction the wraps will take, it does not matter which we go. Secure the tip of the hackle, with an authentic spey fly the hackle is tied in butt end first so the longest hackle is at the back but you have to get excellent spey hackle with small stems for this to work. Do not make a messy bump here, a couple wraps will do.



Secure a piece of ribbing wire in the same place with a couple of wraps of tying silk. Do not

make a messy bump here, a couple wraps will do. Leave the end, it will be wrapped over with tying silk and the dubbing loop to form a smooth body.

Create a 3 inch dubbing loop and load it up with a TINY bit of dubbing. Go easy here, these are wet flies and they sink and swim better with neat, trim bodies. Barely use any dubbing. Wrap the tying thread forward quickly to just beyond the point where the return eye ends. Cover the return by about an eighth of an inch. Be sure to start the dubbing exactly at the point the silk floss ends, no bumps and no gaps here. The dubbing will be wrapped in the opposite direction, around the hook, than the ribbing and spey hackle. This keeps the ribbing and hackle from digging down into the dubbing. The spey hackle and wire will remain behind for now. The dubbing loop will wrap over the end of the hackle and the wire and will continue forward until you meet up with the tying silk. Secure the dubbing loop with 2 turns and cut it off.

Next we wrap the ribbing wire in the OPPOSITE direction we wrapped the dubbing. This



keeps the wire from digging into the dubbed body. The wire and the hackle must be wrapped in the same direction. Keep going until you reach the tying thread and secure with a couple of wraps. Make sure you keep a lot of tension on the wire as you wind it, this makes for a very durable fly. DO NOT build up a mess, we are getting to the front of the fly and want things small and neat.

Now carefully wrap the spey hackle forward. Keep it right in front of the ribbing wire.

Manipulate the hackle as necessary to keep it at right angles as you wrap around the shank as this will keep the hackle flowing out and to the rear of the fly. If the hackle starts looking like a bad hair day you are failing to keep it perpendicular. Back it off and wrap again. Wrap until you are on the actual hook shank in front of the dubbing and tie off with the stem on the bottom of the hook. Put a couple of good wraps under good tension. Cut the stem off and press and tie it in to the bottom if the separated eye. It will kind of disappear when you do it right. Do not crowd the end of the hook.



At this point this is what the fly should look like. We all started somewhere so do not be frustrated if yours does not. Just back up to where you went awry and tune it up. Soon you will have it looking like this and will be ready to proceed. Note the small, neat point where the tying silk is waiting.

Take the tips from 4 spey hackles which will be used for the wings. Look for 2 which curve each way so they lay nicely along the hook shank on each side. Trim them the same length and leave about 1/16 of an inch of bare quill for the tie in point. Align the two which will be the far side wings and attach to the hook with a couple of wraps of thread. Pull up on the thread when tightening. Work at it until the wings line up correctly.



Same deal on the near side wings. Work at this as it is the hardest step. DO not worry if the wings seem a little large for the fly. This fly is supposed to create a large profile. Do not let the wings extend much past the hook point.



Prepare the guinea collar by stoking it perpendicular which holding the tip. Tie it in tip first, flush with the body, with the cupped side of the feather over the fly. Wrap 2-3 turns one next to the other, starting up against the last wrap of spey hackle. Stroke the fibres to the rear of the fly at the top of bottom of each wrap and manipulate the feature to keep perpendicular. The fibres will be perpendicular or lying back a bit when you do it well. If it makes a mess do it over. When you are finished secure with a couple of wraps on the bottom of the hook .

Note that the hackle is evenly divided top, bottom, and side. If you are tying a show fly you may want to pull it down as a beard. If you do this on a fishing fly it will not swim right. At this point you can cut it off close and make a first layer of head wraps over the last layer of collar, each wrap abuts the last going front to back. This will also push the fibres back a bit. DO not build up a mess of thread here, you are almost done. Cement and admire.

We all started somewhere. Carefully follow these instructions and by the time you do all 10 in your kit you will have some good looking flies. Tight Lines and Small Heads!

