

Sunburst Spey

Jack Cook



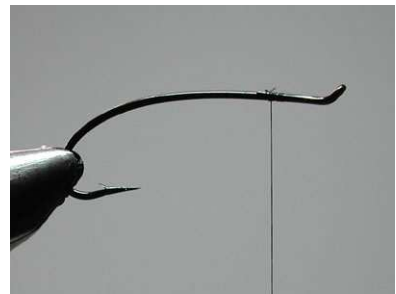
Thread – black
Tag – Embossed Copper
Body – Black Iridescent Dubbing
Rib – Embossed Copper
Spey Hackle – Sunburst
Throat – Natural Guinea
Wing – Bronze Mallard

Tying the Sunburst Spey



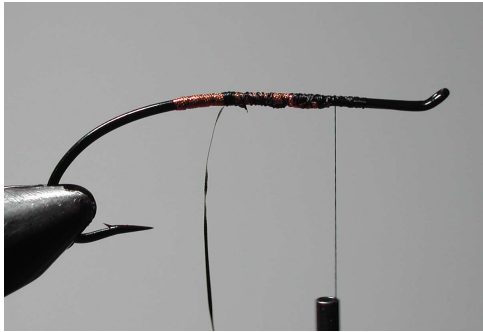
Begin by looking carefully at the example fly I have given you. Remember the details and refer to this fly as you proceed step by step through the tying. If at any point along the way the result is not the way you want it to be then back up. Repeat the step until you get it the way you want it. Nothing will get better if you proceed and tie over a problem.

Start by attaching the thread at the front of the hook. Bind down the return eye and leave the thread at the rear of the return eye.



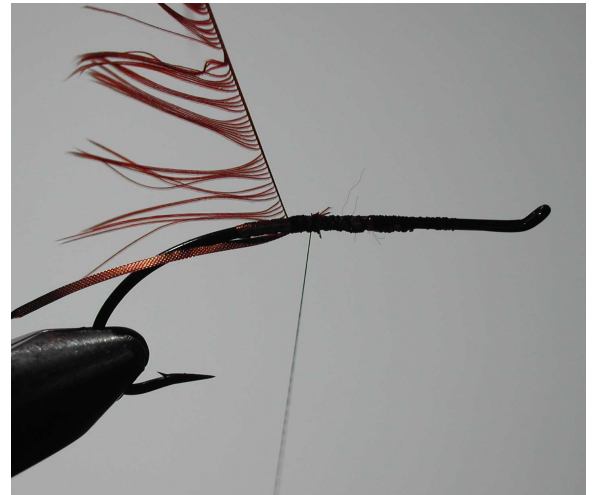
Take the tag and attach about 2/3 back to the point. the hook in the rear of the return eye. As you can see the ribbing just disappears as you lace it down. Pull the ribbing down at an angle as shown and lace it to the bottom of the hook. Stop lacing when the thread is almost to the hook point. Return the thread to the tie in point.





Attach the flat tinsel to the bottom near side of the hook . Using the tying thread lace it back to where the tag is only about 1/8" long.

Prepare a Spey hackle by stoking it so the fibers run out perpendicular to the stem. Remove all the fibers from the worst side of the feather leaving only the feather and the good side. It does not matter which side you keep but it does determine which way you will wrap. If you hold the feather with the tip pointing to the rear of the fly and the fibers are away from you them you will wrap clockwise. What we are doing is orienting the Spey hackle so the natural curve of the fibers shapes the curvature if the wound hackle to the rear of the fly. Tie the hackle in by the tip right above the ribbing.



Prepare a dubbing loop and load it with dubbing. Note that the body is completed completely during this step. We do not create the body by wrapping multiple layers of material over the hook. We create the thickness and taper of the body in the dubbing loop and then ALWAYS wrap the body in one layer from back to front. Note in the photo how the loop tapers up slightly toward the bottom of the loop. This will create a body which is slightly tapered from back to front. If you want a sparser look then use less dubbing. Wind on the dubbing one turn in front of the other leaving about 3/16" from the return eye in the front.





Wrap the tinsel forward in 4 wraps. Be careful not to twist it and keep the spacing perfectly even. If the dubbing gets a little pressed down you can weave the rib back and forth while wrapping and and/or pick out the body a bit with a bodkin after wrapping the rib. If you rib has a tendency to dig in to the dubbing try wrapping the dubbing in the opposite direction.

Next carefully wrap the Spey hackle forward keeping it just behind the rib. Be careful not to twist it and to keep the step next to the hook with the fibers extending out and back. Preen the fibers back as you make the wraps. When you are finished it should look like the picture, all fibers pointing out from the shank and towards the back.



Prepare the Guinea throat feather by stroking the fibers until perpendicular to the shank. Starting where the fibers are the right length pull the rest of the feather forward and tie in at this junction point at the tip end. Make sure the natural curve of the feather is laying over the hook as the feather lays on top. Again we want to use the natural shape of the feather to make the hackle look good.

Take a scissor and fold the hackle by running the scissor blade along the top edge. Using your fingers pull all the fibers to the rear and warp about 1 and a half turns. If you stop before wingding the 2nd turn up you will have 2/3 of the hackle on the bottom and the throat will look very nice.





Now we get to the wings. If you lay the Bronze Mallard feather on top of the hook with the tip pointing to the rear you can see which side the wings pieces are. Take the far feather and cut a strip about ¼" wide. Hold it against the hook and get the length set. It should go almost to the bend of the hook. When you get it right switch hands and put a soft loop of thread over the wing. The wing should be on the far side of the hook at about 45 degrees towards the back and slightly up in the rear. Put a second wrap a thread a bit tighter right in front of the first. Put two more

in front of that and really cinch down. If you cinch behind the first wrap then the wing will separate and you have to start over. Be sure each wrap goes in front of the last. Now wind the thread back on top of the second wrap of the far wing. Measure the length of the near wing piece. It should be the same length and same angles as the far side. When you get it right then tie it in exactly like the far side.

Put some head cement on it and go fishing!

