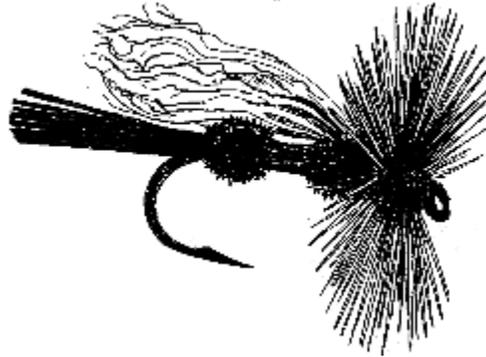


## Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month

### August, 2000- Royal Trude



### The Royal Trude and its cousins: A Midwesterner's gift to the West

By Jim Abbs

Most of the trout waters of world have similar insect populations, explaining---in part---why flies designed in New York also catch fish in Idaho, the English Hampshire or even Eastern Europe. Basically, many insects, like mayflies, caddis and stoneflies are universal inhabitants of places where trout live. However, the truly insightful fly anglers realize that local patterns and local variations can make a big difference.

In the often-turbulent freestone waters of the mountain west, many Eastern patterns are simply not as effective as bigger, more visible flies that float higher and dryer. According to many sources, the first of the truly Western flies originated as a lark. Apparently the one-time mayor of Chicago, Mr. Carter Harrison, tied a joke fly on a muskie hook, with a dog hair wing (apparently the first hair wing) and wool from a cabin rug. He presented this fly to Mr. A.S. Trude, owner of ranch Harrison was visiting in Big Springs, Idaho. To make the joke complete, he even named the fly after Mr. Trude. However, this prank fly looked so good it was imitated with slightly different material and became a truly Western fly, totally different from anything back East.

Trude flies are characterized by a down wing, slanting back over the body, usually made of animal hair and most recently calf tail hair, often white. Other flies were developed from this basic pattern, using the down-wing feature, including such early notable patterns as the Killer Diller, Vint's Special, The Picket Pin, Sofa Pillow, Squirrel Sedge, Snake River Caddis and others. In addition, there are many Trude style flies including the Black Trude, Black Gnat Trude, Betty McNall, Adams Trude, Lyme Trude, Fire Coachman Trude, Grizzly King Trude, Pink Lady Trude and more. As a testimony to the effectiveness of Trude patterns, the Lime Trude has been the most effective fly ---based upon recorded catches---in the Jack Dennis One-Fly Contest.

Obviously, the August, 2000 fly of the month is a style of fly, not a single pattern. Nevertheless there are favorites among the Trude style and one of the most popular is the Royal Trude. To document the effectiveness of this pattern, you can turn to the record-keeping of fly angler-scientist Gary LaFontaine. Gary, in his book, *The Dry Fly*, notes that from 1980-1985, the Royal Trude averaged over 300 trout per year for him, far and away his top pattern. Even after he developed sparkle pupas and other great flies, the Royal Trude remained his overall best attractor.

## MATERIALS

**Hook:** 1X-2X long, sizes 6-18 (Tiemco 5212, Partridge E1A, Mustad 8000)

**Thread:** Black

**Body:** Peacock herl and red floss (gold rib optional) - 1/3 peacock, 1/3 floss followed by 1/3 peacock.

**Hackle:** Brown

**Wing:** White calf tail, downwing style

**Tail:** Elk or deer hair (red hackle fibers optional)

## TYING STEPS

1. Lay down a base of tying thread, starting in the middle of the hook shank. Wrap from the starting point to the bend of the hook and back. This will result in the forward 1/2 of the hook shank bare of thread.
2. Select and stack (to get the ends even) a clump of deer/elk hair (or hackle) and tie it in along the hook to the center of the hook shank (end of base wrap). The tail length (beyond the bend of the hook) should be equivalent to the length of the hook shank. Tie in securely and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook.
3. Select a peacock herl and tie in with the ridge of the herl facing toward the hook eye. Wrap the peacock forward at the back of the hook shank (about 1/3 of the area covered by the base wrap of tying thread).
4. Tie in a strand of red floss and wrap the tying thread forward to a point about equivalent to 2/3's of the base thread wrap. Wrap the red floss forward and back and forward again to assure a smooth body.
5. Tie in a second peacock herl with the ridge of the herl facing toward the hook eye. Wrap forward to the end of the base wrap (center of the hook shank). Tie off and trim excess herl.
6. Wrap the thread forward half way onto the bare hook shank. Select and stack (to get the ends even) a bunch of white calf tail. The amount of calf tail should be about double the amount of hair used for the tail. Calf body hair is a good substitute for smaller fly sizes. Cut the length if the calf tail fibers (at the butt end) so they are long enough to extend from the bare hook shank to about the middle of the tail. Tie in the wing with the tips back. Secure and trim excess.
7. Choose a brown dry fly hackle (or two for larger sizes) and tie in directly in front of the wing. Trim excess and complete the fly with a whip finish or a couple of half hitches.

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