

Basic Blacks – Wet & Dry

“Williams Favourite”, “Black Magic”, “Black & Peacock Spider”, “Black Pennell”

Imitate Upwinged Flies, Emerging Buzzers, Drowned Insects & Nymphs

The materials are listed in order that they are tied in.



Williams Favourite (Dry Fly) [T&S p134, MD p91]

(Created by A Courtney Williams)

Hook : #12 DE Heavy (Kamasan B175)

Silk : Black 8/0

Rib : Fine oval silver tinsel or wire

Tail : Black cock hackle fibres

Body : Black tying silk (or black floss)

Hackle : Black cock (or black hen)

Head : Whip finish silk & black varnish

Imitates emerging buzzer or drowned insect.

Fish dry until waterlogged, then fish as a wet fly with short sharp retrieves and twitches.



Black Magic (Wet fly) [T&S p145]

(Origins uncertain – don't confuse with USA saltwater fly)

Hook : #12 DE Wet (Kamasan B175)

Silk : Black

Rib : Fine oval silver (optional)

Body : Black silk (or black floss)

Thorax : Bronze peacock herl

Hackle : Long soft hen hackle

Head : Whip finish silk & black varnish

Imitates emerging buzzers or drowned insects.

Fish as wet fly in stillwaters and streams.



Black & Peacock Spider (Wet Fly) [T&S p220]

(Publicised by Tom Ivens, but traced to Bainbridge in his 1816 book 'Fly Dressers Guide'.)

Hook : #12 DE Heavy (Kamasan B175)

Silk : Black 8/0

Rib : Fine silver or nylon (optional)

Body : Bronze peacock herl

Hackle : Long soft hen hackle

Head : Whip finish silk & black varnish

Imitates emerging buzzer or drowned insect.

Fish as wet fly in stillwaters and streams.



Black Pennell (Wet Fly) [T&S p221, MD p68]

(Created by Cholmondeley-Pennell in late nineteenth century.)

Hook : #12 DE Heavy (Kamasan B175)

Silk : Black 8/0

Tag : Fine silver round wire 3 turns (optional)

Rib : Fine oval silver tinsel or wire

Tail : Golden pheasant tippets

Body : Black tying silk (or black floss)

Hackle : Long black cock (or black hen)

Head : Whip finish silk & black varnish

Imitates emerging buzzers or drowned insects.

Fish as point fly in team of three when loch fishing.

(Refer to Trout & Salmon's "220 Favourite Flies" & Mike Dawes' "Fly Tiers Manual")

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