

# Lindsay Simpson - Fly tying demonstration

Lindsay started with a demo of how to tie the well-known Scottish nymph known as the Shuggie over the border but to us down South, the Humongous!

He has a liking for Hanak barbless hooks and this pattern used a size 10 H8978 which is a longshank in bronze. He reported that he has not experienced any more fish losses with barbless compared with the barbed versions. He liked the fact that the point on the Hanak hooks tended to bend inwards slightly towards the shank. Personally, he was equipped with a head mounted magnifier to assist his vision although at home he would peer through a free-standing illuminated magnifier.

I noticed he was equipped with a FNF Talon vice at a mere £525 but he is obviously in love with it if you follow his review on You Tube. It was a Christmas pressie!

The first move was to put a bed of Uni-Thread down on the shank and lock it into position with a thin film of super glue. A pair of metallic eyes were selected from a toilet chain (Bog standard size!) firstly along the shank and then twisted through 90° and secured with numerous figures-of-eight turns and dabbed with a dollop of super glue (*these eyes are a bit lightweight and solid metal may be preferred depending on the intended use of the lure*). The thread was then taken down to the bend where a bump was generated to prevent the tail spinning around the shank. He then bound a tail down along the length of the shank, extending twice the length of the body. The material was Reflex Hair<sup>1</sup> which is coloured Mylar tinsel from Romania: look up the web-site and be impressed by the range of colours available. I

noticed that the ends of the fibres were trimmed by a sawing action of one of the blades on the scissors produced a nice tapered layer of Comp Candy topped (*comp-candy-feathers* on Facebook) finished off with a couple of strands of Crinkle Flash tied along the side of the assembly. An 0.1mm fine wire rib was



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flashy fritz (6mm) procured from Dave Downie which was wound in touching turns towards the head. A hen grizzle hackle was tied in at the head and with a number of open turns returned to the bend. It was tied in using the fine wire which was used as a reinforcing rib up towards the head where it was severed. An added feature was to dub some Reflex Hair (*troutline.ro*) onto the thread and perform figure of eight finishing turns around the eyes.

He admitted to adopting a whip finishing tool in recent years to the extent that he found conventional loop knots quite difficult to perform. Another “advance” is his use of UV resins to speed up operations. His preferred brand was Solarez “BoneDry” which was not only fluid and effective but the bottle contained a fine tipped brush for manual application of the resin.

He would fish this fly as a pair on the leader separated by 10 feet, perhaps using a gold body at the front and a silver body at the point. Suck it and see! They would be retrieved fairly quickly which required a leader strength of at least 8lbs. He thinks Fulling Mill is too thick for its strength: he had a bad experience with Rivege possibly the result of a bad batch and abandoned Rio Fluoroflex Plus because it became obscenely expensive (*anglers considering purchasing Rio should check the sell-by date*). He now uses Wychwood partly because it is free but I assume he finds it effective!

Although Hoppers are not normally considered as an early season fly, Lindsay decided to demonstrate two versions, a sinker and a floater. The construction was straightforward on a size 10 Hanak H230 using Nanosilk thread. He pointed out that Hanak hooks are slightly



smaller than say Kamazan – down by 1 so that a 10 is the equivalent to a 12. He tied the pattern on a larger hook for the sake of visibility and would normally fish size 12-14's. The body was natural seal's fur but he used "troutline UV Ribbing fibres" which originated from Romania but may be available from Funky Flytying in the UK. I am not sure what colour he used but it gave off a UV blue when tied in. The exact colour can be modified by stretching the fibre prior to use. (by siblings!) from a dyed colour was described as highland with a black hen hackle (*it's a bit web postings that coloured legs*)



The floating version was of a cock hackle wrapped 4 or 5

featured open turns of a red holo rib. The underside was trimmed so that the body sat in the surface film. Batches of flies were immersed in Permafloat for 24 hours in order to ensure high floatability (*the original formulation must date back almost 50 years. I would have thought that there are improved substitutes now?*).

similar construction but used a times around the shank. It also

The next fly on the stocks was the Muskings nymph which I think was at one time a closely guarded secret weapon used by certain match teams. It successfully represented buzzers high up in the water. The preferred hook was a Hanak H22 barbless in a size 12 which, as previously noted, is the equivalent to a 14 on the Kamazan scale. The design incorporated half a dozen fibres from a cock hackle and the body consisted of pheasant tail fibres dyed black with a rib of fine fibres were wrapped continuous rotation of the spinning the hackle pliers. jaws was perfectly aligned why the Talon costs £500! holographic tinsel at the hot spot. Ahead was a A short length of Antron the head of the thorax and split either side with a figure of eight whipping to form breathers. Hopefully, if the length of pheasant fibres was adequate, the residue could be pulled over the top of the thorax to form a wing case. This was treated with UV resin to provide a measure of protection. A search of the literature will reveal many variations in this pattern including materials and colours and indeed, tying technique.



around the body by a head of the vice rather than The axis of rotation of the vice with the hook shank which is A couple of turns of red rear of the thorax served as a dubbed layer of black squirrel. or Aerowing fibre was tied in at

Unlike the Muskins nymph, the Cormorant is a fly well known to everyone. This was tied on a Hanak 260 size 8 (fits the gauge!) which barbless but in a heavier gauge to normal. A fairly



heavy tapered body was built up with Semperfli 6/0 thread which I think was described as “burnt orange”, overwrapped with open turns of reddish tinsel (holographic?). A pair of Cheekz were tied in on either side of the thorax using a synthetic yellow material from The Fly Tying Den. The black wing was tied in making sure that the tips of the marabou were just nipped to retain tapered mobile ends. The fly was finished with a dubbed head of Andrew’s sooty olive scruffy fur from [www.facebook.com/Troutstalker.uk](http://www.facebook.com/Troutstalker.uk). Dubbing was facilitated by splitting the Semperfli thread. Lindsay recommended trying an all-black version at the end of the day when the fish may have been put off by the myriad of variants.

Crunchers are equally well known and feature a hackle at the front of the fly. This version was tied on a Hanak 230. Lindsay professed a liking for the slightly upturned beak on the barbless point. Crunchers have a tail made up of a pinch of cock feather fibres. The body was made up of (long) pheasant tail fibres dyed with Picric acid: these appear yellowish when dry but adopt an olive hue when wet. A reinforced thorax was built up the thread and coated with UV resin. The fly was completed with a couple of turns of a Greenwell hackle, selected so that when pulled back and tied in, just reached the bend of the hook. This fly was described as fantastic at Grafham!!!!!!



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Finally, as we were running out of time, the last fly was best described as a quickie buzzer! It was tied using black UTC 140 thread to build up a tapered body with a silver wire rib. A bulky thorax was constructed with the thread and a pair of fluo red cheeks applied on either side. The whole fly was coated with UV resin to build up 3-4 layers. (*This is a wing of fibres from a Golden Pheasant crest can slow the rate of descent*). They do not come much easier than that!



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The flies illustrated in this report were those tied during the meeting. Apologies for the quality as they were sitting on my knee! I like personal visits as it offers the chance of seeking solutions to problem. It can be a 2-way process and I saw ([www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=541254669](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=541254669)) that Lindsay welcomed a suggestion from Peter Brewer regarding the use of dumbbell shaped boilie stops (carp fishing) to quickly make up eyes. Lindsay posts a very informative series of fly-tying demonstrations on the web and more recently comprehensively reviewed the BFFI show (*adverts are a bit annoying on U Tube!*).

**Dave Jones**  
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