

Dahlberg Diver

I read somewhere that the Dahlberg Diver was originally made to be used with sinking line. Most of the time I use this fly with a floating line and sometimes I will tie it with a weed guard, but where I fish it's generally not necessary. Up in the billabongs working the fly over lily pads you may need to build the fly with up to three weed guards.



These flies are a lot of fun to tie and always look great. They take a little longer to create but they are a proven fish catcher and a must in any Bass or Saratoga fly box. My favourite colours are all earthy colours – black of course, but olive, green and yellow are also great colours. I think that colour doesn't really matter as the attraction of this fly is the noise and disturbance it makes when retrieved. I work this fly with a lot of pauses, this I feel gives the fish time to find the fly. Well I know you'll have fun with this one, because I do. It's one of my favourites to tie and play around with.

Materials:

Hook – Gamakatsu B10 S #2

Thread – Flat Waxed Nylon

Tail – Zonker Strip and a vale of soft fur

Body – Super Salt Chenille

Step 1

Lay a bed of thread over the back half of the hook shank. Cut a very short strip of Zonker and tie in at the bend. It should only extend behind the bend of the hook a distance of half the gape.

Tie a fine vale of soft fur around the Zonker. This should be half the length of the Zonker.



Step 2

Tie in the Super Salt Chenille and wind 3 wraps forward nice a tight, then tie off. You should still have at least half of the hook shank bare of any thread.



Step 3

Cut a small bunch of Deer Belly Hair. Tie in at the last tie-in point with the tips of the hair pointing backwards. Put two loose wraps around the hook shank and the middle of the clump of hair. Pull down, flaring the hair but not letting it spin around the hook shank.

Another three tight wraps around the middle and then advance the thread forward and pull the hair backwards and wrap tightly in front of the bunch.



Step 4

Advance thread forward. Cut another small bunch of Deer Hair and this time remove the tips. Two loose wraps and pull tight this time flaring and spinning the deer evenly around the hook shank. Another three tight wraps of thread and pull the hair backwards, using three tight wraps in front of the bunch to secure it.

Next take a hair packer and pack the bunch back hard as possible.



Step 5

Repeat Step 4 until hook shank is full. Remember to pack each stack with a packer to get it real tight. This will aid the buoyancy of the fly and help with its action.

Whip finish fly.



Step 6

Use a pair of sharp scissors to cut the hair in the gape of the hook flat.



Step 7

Use the scissors to cut a rough shape of the nose of the Dahlberg. The easiest way I found is to hold the fly in your fingers and using the eye of the hook and a set length of the scissors point cut back into the hair at an angle. This angle is accomplished by resting the scissors against the hook eye as you cut. Look head on to your fly and cut the collar to the size you want. I don't like the collar to be too big. I also like to cut down to where the Deer Hair is packed very tight. I find this creates the best action.



Step 8

Finish trimming behind the collar roughly with your scissors. When happy with the shape clean your fly up using a sharp razor blade. To get the best cut bend the razor between your thumb and index finger. This will give you a perfectly smooth curved cut.



Step 9

After cutting your fly into the desired shape, you need to stiffen and seal the ends of the cut Deer Hair so it will not absorb water too quickly. For this purpose you can use either Head Cement or thinned silicone. Remember, if you are using silicone, the next day coat the silicone with Hard as Nails to stop the silicone from being sticky.

