

Wet Salmon Fly Hooks

The hooks use to tie salmon flies, to be fished as a wet fly, are available in different shank sizes and hook strengths.

You must select the hook to tie the pattern of fly to be fished that is most effective for the species being fished taken into consideration the water conditions and the behavior of the fish.

The only standard in wet salmon fly hooks is the hook gape.

Wet salmon fly hooks maybe dressed in a hair wing or feathered wing in various combinations.

The proportions for various additions to the hook and the tie-in positions on the hook may vary depending on fishing conditions and often the preference of the fly-tier.

Remember the fish decides if it wants to take the fly. The anglers must find the fly pattern(s) the fish like under different water conditions. Then as a fly tier you can select the type of hook, the fly pattern, and the style of dressing the hook.

The flies maybe dressed in the proportions relative to the fly pattern or reduced dressed.

.... more to come in accordance with questions form fly tiers.

John Sheppard

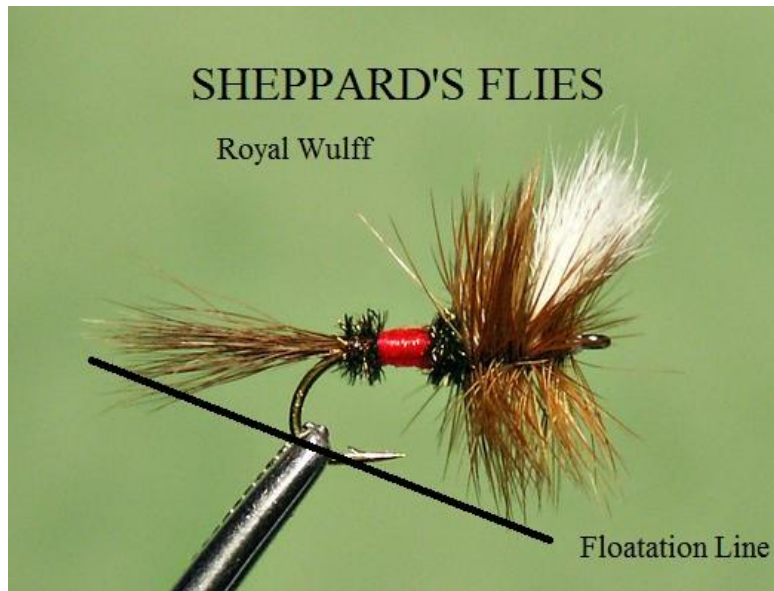
The gauging of hackle on a dry fly hook is usually in proportion to the gap of the hook. However, there are several shank lengths of the same size hook. For example, a size 6 dry fly hook may be a 1XL or longer in shank length, or 1XS or shorter in shank length.

If the dry fly hook is of standard shank length, the hackle should be about 1 ½ times the gap of the hook.

You can also stroke the hackle fibers so that they a perpendicular to the hackle stem. Then position the hackle stem parallel to the hook shank. The barbs of the hackle should be about 1 1/2 times the gap width for a dry fly

Or fold the hackle around the hook shank. The barbs of the hackle should be about 1 1/2 times the gap width for a dry fly

Standard Dry Fly Proportions



For a standard dry fly:

The wing is 2.5 times the hook gap. The wing is tied in at about 1/3 the hook shank from the eye of the hook.

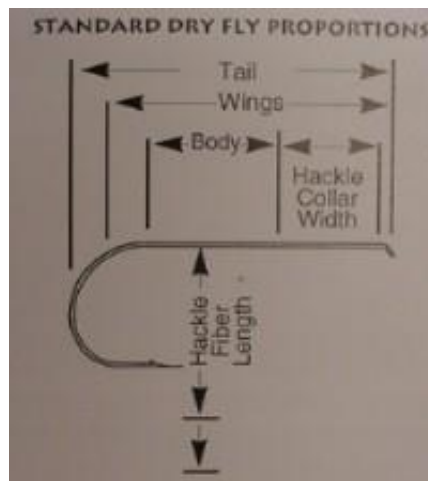
The tail is tied inline at the barb position of the hook shank. The tail is 2 times the hook gap.

The body of the dry fly is 2/3 or slightly less than 2/3 the length of the hook shank.

The dry fly hackle is 1.5 times the hook gap.

The floatation line of the dry fly should be from the tips of the tail to the bend of the hook to the tips of the dry fly hackle.

Another Method of Sizing Dry Fly Proportions



You can also gauge dry fly proportions according to the shank length.

The tail is to be 1 shank length.

The wing is to be one shank length.

The collar hackle is to be 1.5 times the hook gap (or $\frac{3}{4}$ the wing length).

If the dry fly hook is longer (X) or shorter (XS) in shank length, then decide how you want the fly to float before you begin trying the fly.

For those dry flies with a tail, the tail length you use will determine the hackle fiber length.

For those dry flies with no tail, the hackle length will determine how high the dry fly will sit on the water.

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