
FLY OF THE MONTH

Olive Matuka



- Type:** Streamer - hook 3X long
Hook: Daiichi 2220 size #2 to #12, TMC 5263, Mustad 9572 3XL
Thread: Olive or black 6/0 Uni Thread
Tail: Grizzly hen saddle dyed olive, Chickabou, (or rooster) two to four
Rib: Medium silver wire of oval tinsel
Underbody: Lead wire or lead substitute
Body: Olive medium chenille or dyed rabbit fur or dyed squirrel
Hackle: Grizzly saddle dyed olive
Instructions: This fly can be tied in a number of different colors to suit your local fish. Try it in black, orange or red for starters. (Olive is the best color.)

The idea of binding the hackle wing along the top of the hook shank originated in New Zealand over 50 years ago. The name comes from the bird whose feathers were used for the wing of the first versions of this pattern. The fly represents fry or minnows, but also makes an effective suggestive pattern of something a hungry trout would like to eat. It is a style that makes for a very robust wing that resembles the long dorsal fin of a bait fish. The Matuka fly is a Streamer/Lure pattern. They were introduced to the USA and the rest of the world about 1975. They have been tied in just about every color combination you can imagine. Have the hackle wings of a streamer fly you were using ever twisted round the gape of a hook while casting? When this happens, the fly moves through the water like a propeller, instead of swimming with a smooth, minnow-like action. If this really annoys you then change to using Matuka style flies.

In Britain this type of fly is called a 'Lure'. Streamers (including hair-wings/bucktails) represent various

small fish, and are tied on long-shanked hooks. They may be tied as deceivers, imitations of local small baitfish or as vivid colorful attractors that suggest something alive, edible or a threat. The attractors are also designed to stimulate a predatory fish's aggression. They are usually a little heavier than the nymphs, and the wind resistance can vary depending on the particular fly.

A streamer is tied with soft feathers, such as cock saddle hackles or marabou, and is intended for fishing in relatively small and calm waters. By contrast, bucktails are tied with hair wings instead of feathers - originally hair from a deer's tail, hence the name but also squirrel hair. They are more suitable for fishing in broad, fast waters.

Historically, streamers belong to the American east coast, while bucktails come from the west coast. All these flies are fished in the same way. It is both the easiest way of fly-fishing, and the method that yields the biggest fish! This may sound paradoxical, but it isn't. There are two reasons: you can do nothing wrong

with a big streamer or buck-tail and the fact is that big fish prefer big flies.

The nice thing about small fish compared with tiny insects and crustaceans is that, to a great extent, they can oppose the current. Being strong swimmers, they commonly dare to enter more open and rapid water. As a result, the fly-fisherman can fish his flies almost anywhere he likes: up or down or across the stream, either fast or slow. The fly will be equally attractive in all cases, and you need not worry about whether the fly will drag. Really large fish have long ago given up eating small insects in favor of more substantial young fish. Otherwise they would never have reached the size that makes them so desirable to us!



Lucky Ketcham

