



CHAPTER 18

The Evolution of the Halo-Hackle/ Light Bulb Klink



Egg-laying damselfly – photo Warwick Tarboton

Klinkhåmers are different from many other parachute dry flies in that the thorax of the fly is designed to hang down 'through' the surface of the water to imitate an emerging insect.

The abdomen serves as a trigger point which penetrates the surface film, which gets noticed by trout from great distances, even before any resulting surface footprint features.

In all variations of this fly, the abdomen of the fly float is underneath the surface of the water to attract the fish and improve hookups, while the parachute hackle and foam or wing is on or above the surface of the water for visibility and flotation.

Klinkhåmer – Wikipedia

Hans van Klinken's fly, which dates from the early 1980s, has been successful wherever trout are caught and South Africa has been no exception.

Its half-in and half-out of the water posture emphasises the 'something struggling'/vulnerability feature which characterised earlier patterns such as the British Mole Fly and the French Pont Audemer.

In the December 2006 issue of the American magazine *Fly Fisherman*, van Klinken wrote: ***"Because the heavy curved hook of my fly sits well below the surface film, the Klinkhåmer Special imitates all types of emerging mayflies and caddis."***

On the trout streams near Cape Town, the adult mayfly and caddis are not particularly prevalent and most emergence takes place after sunset.

Dragon and damselflies are, however, ubiquitous, patrolling from specific perches, sometimes dipping down to capture a terrestrial insect from the water surface, or dipping their abdomens into the water to lay eggs.

They are tracked in the air by trout and, as portrayed on the @finripplemedia Instagram page, sometimes being captured in flight by those trout.

In the Karoo, local guide Alan Hobson has seen bass in dams capturing dragon and damselflies in mid-air.

The goal of this article is to describe the evolution of my attempts to make the Klinkhåmer resemble these insects in the vulnerable egg-laying stage and, in that process, to impart more movement and improve buoyancy.

The Halo Hackle Parachute

I will sketch what I believe was the chronology of a truly outstanding contribution to fly tying – the double-feather, Halo Hackle parachute technique - which I believe can be wholly attributed to Tom Sutcliffe. The dual feather parachute enhances, I believe, the Klinkhåmer as a searching fly by breaking up the light spectrum of the hackles, thereby intensifying the impression of movement.

The first time I came across the term 'Halo Hackle' was in the November 1984 issue of the British magazine, *Trout Fisherman*. It was in an article by John Ketley called, 'Tyings to Test a Saint' and I was so intrigued I sent it to Tom and other fly angler friends.

Ketley had scraped up the money to buy a very expensive Metz cape but, as he could only afford one, he chose a grizzly.

His other capes were more pliant Indian imports and to support the longer hackles of the Indian capes in his vertically-hackled dry flies, he tied a small Metz grizzly feather behind the larger feather and wound it through the bigger feather to support it.

"I found that I could add significantly to the robustness of the fly and its ability to float high by using a very small grizzle hackle as a base to the main hackle."

**England international
John Ketley looked
at the problems
presented by the
chalk-stream dry fly,
and came up with the
Halo Tying.**

River & stream

FIRST I must say that as there is virtually nothing new in our wonderful sport, I don't claim this method of tying dry flies has not been tried before, but I haven't seen it.

Having now answered anyone who has been fishing these flies for years in Outer Mongolia, I can explain how I came to develop them myself.

Many traditional dry flies are either tied nice and bushy and float wonderfully, or rather spare and sink on the second cast despite being soaked in floatant. What I found I needed was a format that enabled me to tie flies that had a profile that was near to the natural but still floated tall on the surface. The more I cast to trout rising in chalk streams, the more I became conscious that the actual takes came when the fly was sitting relatively high on the water, as long as the fly was

not too bushy in the hackle.

Firstly I treated myself to a second grade Metz cape, but as I couldn't afford a series of such capes to meet the various colours I wanted I went for a grizzle. Then I set about experimenting with combinations of the grizzle hackles and cheaper Indian cock capes tied in together.

Slowly I found that I could add significantly to the robustness of the fly and its ability to float high by using a very small grizzle hackle as a base to the main hackle.

This way I could use only one or two turns of ordinary cock hackle and still have a dry fly that kept its hackles stiff. It appears the grizzle hackle supports the lower half of the other hackle, especially during casting and the not so odd occasion when I have to drag the fly out of some vegetation. The bonus came when I

compared the artificial's profile with various naturals and discovered with joy that to my eyes it looked a little more like the real thing. The larger hackle gave a halo effect to the smaller grizzle hackle, and I have named this method The Halo Tying.

Next I tied up three patterns for the Kennet, a Pale Watery, a Blue Winged Olive and an Imperial (well, my version of these patterns) and duly set off to try them out on the trout.

I must have been in favour with the Gods of the river that day as the Pale Wateries were hatching off perfectly as I arrived, and later the larger Olives had their turn. The evening produced a mini blizzard of B.W.O., and so I had three opportunities to test my new patterns on some very experienced Kennet trout. Needless to say I had some fish that would not take my latest confections, but the vast

Tyings to test

The river Wylfe at Haytesbury Mill — classic chalk-stream water.



TROUT FISHERMAN

John Ketley's 'Halo Hackle' article which inspired similar designs in South Africa

majority of fish that I covered accurately sipped down the Halo Fly as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

A week later I had an even better opportunity to test these patterns as conditions on the river were rather more difficult.

The weather was warm and windless, with just enough cloud cover to give the trout time to examine each morsel that floated down to them with an extra critical eye. I was fishing that day with an excellent angler and I carefully followed him as he worked his way up river. Virtually every fish he cast to would drop back with the current, balancing the artificial on his nose and quite a number of refused after taking a close-up look. In fact two or three fish went through this frustrating exercise more than once and my friend moved on to the next rising fish convinced it would not be worth further

effort. This would be a real test of my Halo patterns so I put on a delicate Pale Watery that was very similar to my friend's, but was tied in the Halo format. You can imagine my delight when each of those fish took my fly without a second's hesitation. Here was proof indeed that I could be on to a real winner.

Later on I was invited to a very different stretch of river where the fish see rather more anglers and quickly become very choosy as to what they will rise for.

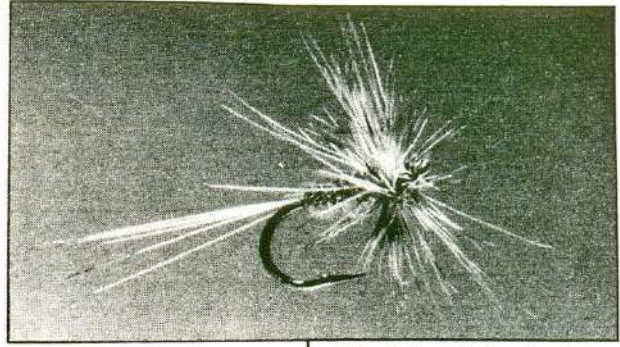
There were a few Blue Winged Olives hatching by 6pm and fish were taking them only if the natural floated right over their nose. During the day these same fish had been bombarded with all sorts of nymphs and shrimp patterns as they lay torpid near the bottom, so they were inclined to be hyper-critical of any concoction of fur and feather.

I found one heavy looking old chap on the fin in an eddy right under an alder bush. He was nicely shaded from the sinking sun by the alder leaves as they brushed the water and was intercepting each B.W.O. as it stretched its wings in preparation for its maiden flight.

First I tried him with a classic pattern B.W.O. given to me by my friend John Goddard, and despite John's well deserved reputation for tying beautiful artificials, the trout totally ignored it.

Next I put on my old wingless pattern B.W.O. that has served me very well in the past; that too was ignored. Then I knotted on my Halo B.W.O. and carefully presented it to this choosy finned tormentor — and bless me if he didn't take it as good as gold. I was so convinced he would ignore it that I struck far too late, and despite that still hooked him way back down at the base of his tongue.

The fish must have been hooked before, as he tried every trick in the trout's handbook of how to escape. First he leapt up into the alder bush and nearly wrapped my cast around a branch, but it just slipped through the leaves. Then he dived head first into a weed bed and all I could see was his big square tail as he drove his head further and further into the weeds. With steady pressure I finally persuaded him to back out and off he went downstream like a train. Now I had occasion to bless the reel I have been trying last season as it slowed him just enough for me to stop him before he went over a waterfall.



John Ketley's halo tying of the Blue Winged Olive.

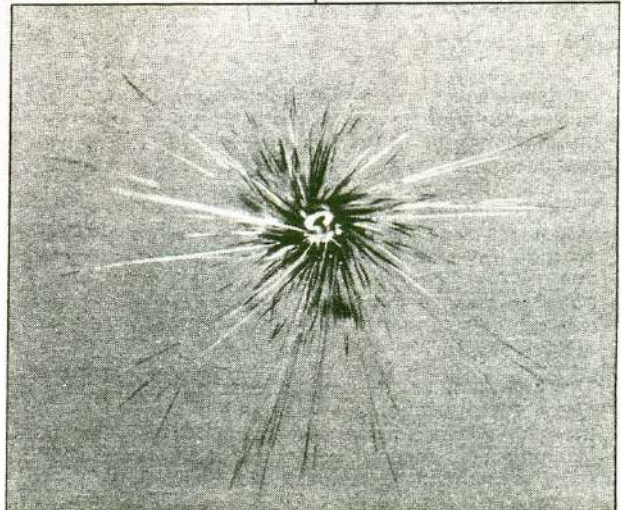
When I finally grassed him and retrieved my fly I was interested to see how such rough handling had affected my new pattern. I dried it off in some powder and cast it onto the water to see if it would float tall and damn me if a half pound grayling didn't take it.

After such an evening I felt I could honestly tell you chaps about this method of tying flies and hope you have similar success.

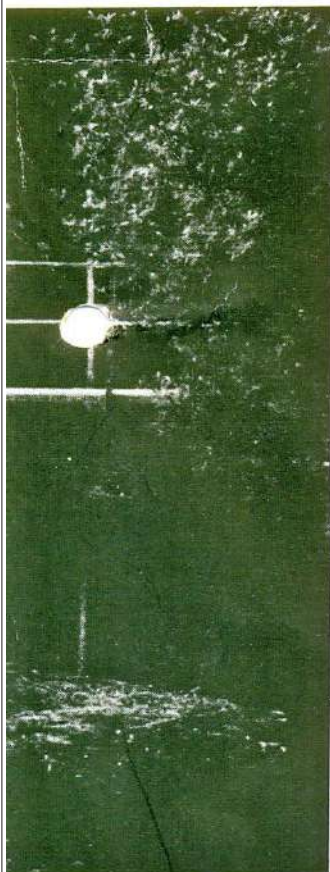
If you look at the profile of the Halo Patterns I have tied, despite my limited talents with hackles and hooks, you will notice how the small grizzle hackle seems to represent those minute feathery bits around the insect's head, while the longer hackles look like the legs and wings. It is often said that commercial flies tend to be overdressed and maybe this is true, but finding dry flies that sit well on the water and don't collapse over a few hours fishing has, I find, always been a problem.

This Halo format seems to answer both problems rather well. □

This view of the same fly clearly shows how the smaller grizzle hackle and the larger hackle create a halo effect.



saint



TROUT FISHERMAN

"This way I could use only one or two turns of cock hackle and still have a dry fly that kept its hackles stiff. It appears the grizzle hackle supports the lower half of the other hackle, especially during casting and the not so odd occasion when I have to drag the fly out of some vegetation."

‘If you look at the profile of the Halo Patterns I have tied, despite my limited talents with hackles and hooks, you will notice how the small grizzle hackle seems to represent those minute feathery bits around the insect’s head, while the longer hackles look like the legs and wings.’

To his delight, the Halo Hackle pattern proved exceptionally successful on some demanding beats of the River Test – hence the title of the article.

As always in fly tying, there were earlier, similar concepts. The idea of combining a small and a large feather in dry flies is attributed to Dr William Baigent of Northallerton in England who died in 1935 aged 71.

Ernest Schweibert in his book *Trout* (Andre Deutsch, 1979) writes:

“Variant-type flies originated on the rivers of Yorkshire in 1875, where sparse wet flies had always been tied, and it is logical that dry flies with exaggeratedly long hackle fibers should evolve there. Doctor William Baigent originated the variant-style dry fly and evolved a series of twelve patterns that became known commercially as Refracta flies. Baigent believed that the shiny fibers of his long gamecock hackles created the illusion of fluttering life, as well as floating his flies easily on relatively swift currents.”

Here’s a quote about Baigent’s flies from the 1950 book *Professional Fly Tying and Tackle Making Manual and Manufacturer’s Guide* by George Leonard Herter:

“He always tied the long hackle in grey, cream, or misty grey neutral shades and the small hackles, representing the legs of the fly, in a darker shade. The large neutral hackles, long in fibre, disturb the surface of the water on which the fly is floating and produce an alternating refraction which, he claimed, gives the appearance of wings fluttering on the water and also provides a semi-transparent look to the shorter hackles representing the legs. They produce well and are fish getters everywhere.”

In an article, ‘Dr Baigent and the Long-Hackled Fly’ carried in the February 2008 issue of the Ozark Flyfisher’s Newsletter, Terry Finger wrote:

“Dr. William Baigent ... studied theories of light refraction and believed that optical patterns created by long-hackled dry flies provide a better imitation of fluttering wings than conventional flies. The long-hackled flies also floated well on swift currents and were less likely to spook trout in quiet water because they settled gently on the surface. He developed about a dozen fly patterns intended to imitate common local insects.

The flies came to be known as “variants” to indicate that their proportions deviated from conventional standards. He later produced a series of flies that were marketed commercially by Hardy’s as Refracta flies. These variants used dark-cantered badger or furnace hackle or employed hackles of mixed length a short hackle to represent legs and a longer hackle to provide optical and floating qualities.”

But, from what I have been able to glean from contemporary Hardy catalogues, Baigent tied the small feather behind the big one and did not wind it through the larger hackle as Ketley described in his 1984 article.

The first South African reference to the idea came in an article – ‘The Halo Hackle – The Incredible Lightness of Being’ - that Tom Sutcliffe wrote for the first issue of the South African magazine, *The Complete Fly Fisherman*, (TCFF) in November 1993.

“Wind the first (small) hackle up to the second and then suspend it temporarily at this point trapped in your hackle pliers. Pick up the second (spade) hackle and wind a single, full turn around the hook shank. Never be persuaded to make more than one turn, otherwise you destroy the very essence of the pattern and detract from its delicacy and movement. Tie off the spade hackle and wind the first hackle through and pass it to the eye where you can tie it off.”

DR. BAIGENT'S PATTERNS. Set No. 1



Baigent's Brown



March Brown Spinner

3 'Hardy' Hooks



Dark Olive



Baigent's Black

2 'Hardy' Hooks



Dark Variant



Red Variant

1 'Hardy' Hooks



Rusty Variant



Light Variant



Red Spinner



Dark Olive Dun Spinner

0 'Hardy' Hooks



Light Olive Dun Spinner

MR. J. J. HARDY'S TWELVE. Set No. 2



Variation Baigent's Brown

2 'Hardy' Hooks



Greenwell's Glory



Pale Olive

1 'Hardy' Hooks



Ginger Quill



Woodcock & Red Hackle

3 'Hardy' Hooks



Governor



Birch's Favourite

2 'Hardy' Hooks



Dark Variant



Knotted Midge

00 'Hardy' Hooks



Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear

0 'Hardy' Hooks



Black Spider



Alder

1 'Hardy' Hooks

THE "BAIGENT" AND "HARDY" DRY FLIES. PLATE 6

A page from a contemporary Hardy catalogue showing Baigent's patterns

He gave two dressings – one with two dun rooster hackles and one with a grizzly base feather and the other, bigger feather, a guinea fowl neck feather. The latter pattern, I submit, is the most significant because it was the first local fly which, to my knowledge, combined stiff rooster hackle and soft game-bird hackle in the dual-feather Halo Hackle format – but more of this anon.

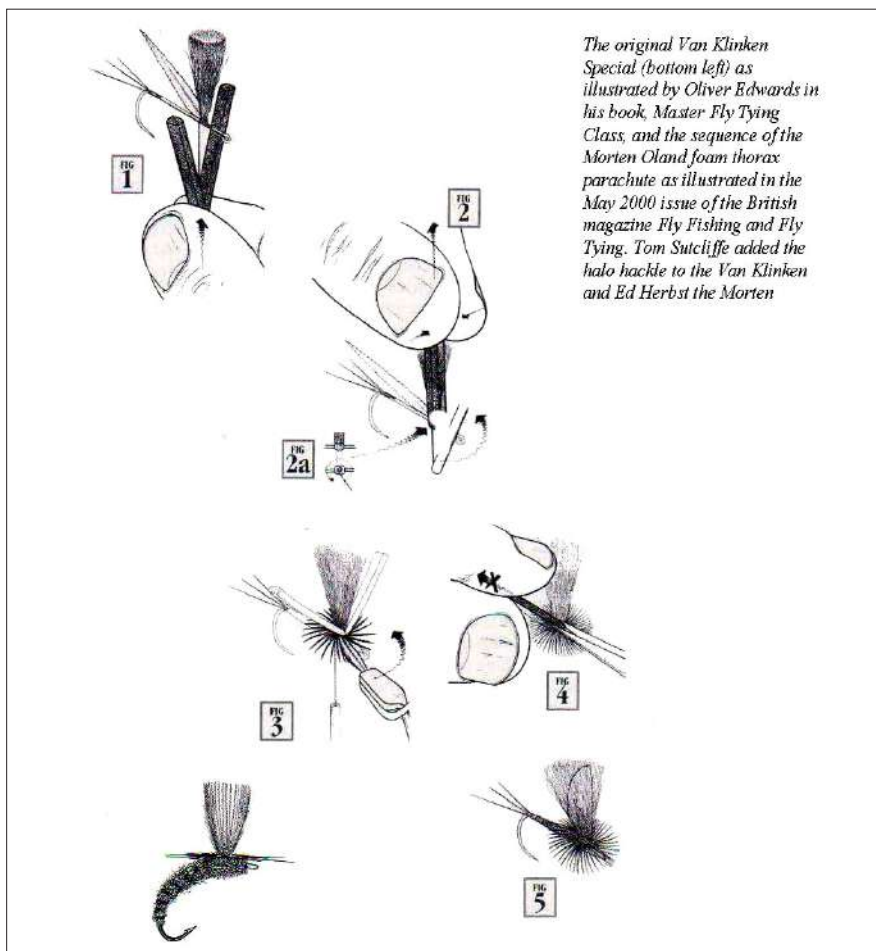
In 2000 Tom became interested in Coq de Leon feathers after reading about them in Darrel Martin's book, *Fly Tying Methods*. I gave him some that I had ordered through Orvis and he also bought some at my suggestion from Phil and Mary White who were then running Lathkill Tackle in England.

The obvious use for such feathers was in Variants – what the Americans call Spiders or Skaters – such as Tony Biggs' RAB. Tom told me, however, that he had also tied some halo hackle parachute dries and Klinkhamers with them and that they had proved very successful on our streams. Two of the dries were featured in an article – 'Spanish Feathers – Making the better dry flies better still' - he wrote for the June 2000 issue of the South African magazine *Flyfishing*: ***"So I tied a few RABs and, depending on your level of addiction to this lovely pattern, I'd say they look mouth-watering. Some people***

might think that the hackle is too broad, but I'll live with that – you could make them narrower if you used just the tip of the feather.

"And since I've developed this growing conviction that parachute flies actually get more takes, and that halo-hackle parachutes get the most, I tied a few of them as well. Same result."

In May 2000 Oliver Edwards wrote an article in the British magazine, *Flyfishing and Fly Tying* about an ingenious method of tying parachute patterns which had been developed by the Danish guide, Morten Oland. Oland folds a piece of foam into a u-shape and uses it to cup the hook shank from below, thereby surrounding the wing post on both sides. This adds buoyancy and gives the parachute hackle something to dig into.



The Morten Oland technique (above) compared to the conventional tie below – Oliver Edwards sketches

In the November 2000 issue of the Cape Piscatorial Society's journal, *'Piscator'*, having become aware of Oliver Edward's reference to the Morten Oland foam rubber thorax modification of the Klink, I published an article 'Halo Hackle Klinkhamer' which can be found in the 'Patterns from Piscator' folder in the CPS articles archive.

To quote the article: ***"The Halo-Hackled, Morten Oland version of the Klinkhamer Special provides the best of all worlds. It floats where the most-deadly dry flies float, pinioned in the surface film and thus looking vulnerable. With its body beneath the surface, it can be seen by fish long before***

a normal dry fly would appear in their 'window'. Above all it is buoyant, easy-to-see and presents delicately. What more could you ask for?"

In 2010 Tom posted an article on his 'Spirit of Fly Fishing' website: 'Tying the Halo Hackle Klinkhamer Emerger' in which the parachute, which was wrapped around a looped Aerothene wing, combined rooster and CDL feathers. As always, it is a worthwhile read, combining his sketches with his photographs to illustrate the tying process and the rationale behind it.

But Tom had taken the Halo Hackle parachute concept a step further and I only became aware of this a few years later when I saw a pattern tied by Fred Steynberg, one of South Africa's most experienced guides who lives in Rhodes surrounded by a host of beautiful trout streams. He uses a combination of a rooster and a partridge hackle as a parachute on two of his patterns, an imitation of a spider and a Klinkhåmer-type emerger with a body of stripped peacock quill.

The smaller rooster hackle is tied below the broader partridge hackle, providing support.



(Top) Fred Steynberg discussing his Halo Hackle patterns with the author on the veranda of his home in Rhodes

For the wing post he uses translucent Aerothene foam rubber packaging material which Gary LaFontaine praised for its light-dispersal qualities and which is used in his deadly Air Head Caddis.

About 15 years ago Andrew Ingram and I produced two DVDs called 'A South African Fly -Tying Journey with Ed Herbst and Friends' which can be found on the Vimeo website and Fred can be seen tying his Halo Hackle Wolf Spider imitation in which the dual hackle is tied on top of the smallest foam rubber Bug Body by Wapsi which imitates the abdomen of spider.

(L) DVD - South African fly-tying history – note the shelf of cork over the reel seat – Stephen Boshoff's 'Palm Grip' on an 'Ought Weight' Sage SPL



As a guide and professional fly tyer, Fred has to tie effective flies quickly and, for the Klink-type emerger, he uses a single quill for both the submerged body and the area below the hackle – in the latter case, he leaves the herl on the quill.

At this juncture it must be said that combining a rooster hackle and a game bird feather on a conventional, vertically-hackled dry fly has been around for more than a century.

One of the earliest such patterns had its origins, apparently, in Slovenia and was attributed to a local fly fisher, Josip Bravničar, who used it with great success on the Tolminka River. It was brought to the attention of a wider audience by a visiting German angler, Alexander Behm, who wrote an article about it in *Die Angelsport* in 1928.

The famous French fly-tying company, Devaux, invented a dry fly style in which the hackle is cupped forward, Tenkara-style, and combines rooster and partridge hackles.

In Britain, patterns such as the Gingler (also called the Jangler) and the Welsh Partridge have been around for a long time but these are all, however, conventional, vertical-hackle dry fly designs or what Hans van Klinken calls ‘shoulder hackle’ flies – not parachutes.

Fred’s two patterns which he and his clients have used with great success for years are a Klink with a stripped peacock herl body ...



... and right, an imitation of the local Wolf Spider (Lycosidae) which is common in South African riverine habitats

I asked Fred about this hackle configuration and he said he got the idea from a fly Tom tied during a clinic which Fred had held in Rhodes.

Fred ties his Wolf Spider imitation on a size 12 sedge hook using the smallest foam rubber Bug Body by Wapsi for the abdomen.

Fred recommends that the rooster hackle have a width approximately equivalent to the hook gape and that the partridge hackle be about twice that. I cut the barbules from one side of the rooster feather – say the right – and the barbules from the opposite side of the soft hackle.

I then wind the rooster hackle one turn clockwise around the foam thorax and the soft hackle on turn in the opposite direction. My rationale for this, and I have no proof of its validity, is that this makes for a more aerodynamically-balanced fly.

Dangling Tails

In 2013, while on a visit to Rhodes, I was told by local guide Tony Kietzman that his most successful searching pattern was the Klink and I suggested that if he wanted to double his catch rate on it, all he had to do was add rubber tails. I had proved this to my own satisfaction on my home streams near Cape Town.



Tony Kietzman – from Klinkhåmer to Edhåmer – just add dangling rubber tails

He did and he did. He uses a size 15 TMC 212 Y hook and makes the point that the tiny bit of weight which the rubber tails add to the bend of the hook and extra water inertia created by the current on them, help cock the fly in the upright position. He uses a goose biot for the body, five turns of blue

dun hackle (Van Klinken's recommendation) and a post of pink TMC Aero Wing which is lighter than water. It proved so successful that he called it the Edhåmer. I feel that barring the tails with a black permanent marker, could improve the illusion of movement.



**An Edhåmer, as tied by Tony Kietzman, which has proved highly successful
for the clients he guides in Rhodes**

Read the account '*The Right Fly*' by Dawid Rossouw in the Cape Piscatorial Society's articles archive which I curate. You'll find it towards the bottom of the list in the 'Patterns from Piscator' folder.

To me, adding extra-fine latex rubber tails to the Klink was logical.

At a stroke, you are doubling the effective size of the fly with no significant addition of weight or adverse aerodynamic impact when casting. Keep in mind that when a surface-emerging mayfly clambers out of its nymphal shuck, it effectively doubles its length and the process of extracting itself from the shuck involves intense movement.

Furthermore, you are exponentially increasing two paramount factors that prompt trout to rise; movement and the vulnerability factor.

Such tails would, I believe, also enhance similar designs such as Bob Wyatt's Deer Hair Emerger and the Jeremy Lucas Plume Tip.

The use of rubber legs and tails, as I recall, goes back almost a century when such material used by fly tyers was derived from the corsetry industry – an example being the aptly-named Girdle Bug.

Rubber legs became a ubiquitous design feature on hopper imitations with the Madam X, a stonefly imitation by Doug Swisher and Carl Richards, providing the basic design parameters for many of today's hopper patterns.

The first rubber legs I was able to purchase decades ago came from Orvis and quickly perished.

Latex rubber legs provided the breakthrough and the mottled legs from the Montana Fly Company were a revelation being translucent and tough.

Hareline then brought out their Daddy Long Legs version. They have since brought out an improvement on Daddy Long Legs – Micro Flex. It's thinner and more flexible than competing products, fluoresces in strong sunlight and is easily barred.

The Zakhåmer – an intermediate step

About a decade ago, publisher Paul Curtis who had moved to Wales, asked me during a visit to Rhodes to tie an emerger that incorporated aspects of Tom Sutcliffe's, ZAK nymph – a revered local design.

I have forgotten the details, but the battered remnants of the 'Zakhåmer' he brought back on a subsequent visit - asking for more - indicated that the combination of orange Morten Oland foam rubber cupping a snowshoe hare wing and dangling rubber tails had proved well-nigh irresistible to the Welsh trout and grayling.



The first Zåkhamer after its return from Wales. (R) The Zakhåmer Mark Two - an evolving design

Parachute post

Hans van Klinken uses a white polypropylene wing as the foundation for his parachute hackle but the consensus in South Africa is that fluorescent pink Antron yarn is the easiest to follow in the drift in all light conditions. Jan Korrubel uses it on his rubber-tailed ParaRAB emerger with great success



when he guides on the Bushman's Stream in KwaZulu-Natal and it has proved equally effective in Rhodes. Rhodes guide Tony Kietzman uses pink TMC Aero Wing - which is lighter than water - on his rubber-tailed Edhåmer.

The 'Light Bulb' Moment

On 9 May 2022, I posted this Stephen Boshoff photograph and my text on my Instagram account - @ed_herbst346

"But I must admit that, when this photograph of his 'Light Bulb Ant' landed in my inbox, my jaw dropped because I have never seen anything like this before. CDC tips brushed with tiny drops of glittering UV-light cured resin.

"Kaleidoscope Ant' might be a more appropriate name

because it takes the decades-old hard shell sinking ant an innovative step forward.”

I also realised that this principle could be applied to flies with rubber legs, creating a cantilever effect – what I called the ‘Pendulum Leg’.

Purple flies in tannin-stained streams

A further refinement came with the discovery in May 2024 by artist and professional fly tyer, Marcel Terblanche, that brown trout in the heavily peat-stained streams in the Tsitsikamma National Park area of the Southern Cape responded strongly to flies with a purple element in the dressing.



A palm grip rod, weighing less than one ounce and built by Marcel Terblanche for the tannin-stained brown trout streams of the Southern Cape

Here’s what I wrote in my Instagram post on 25 May of that year:

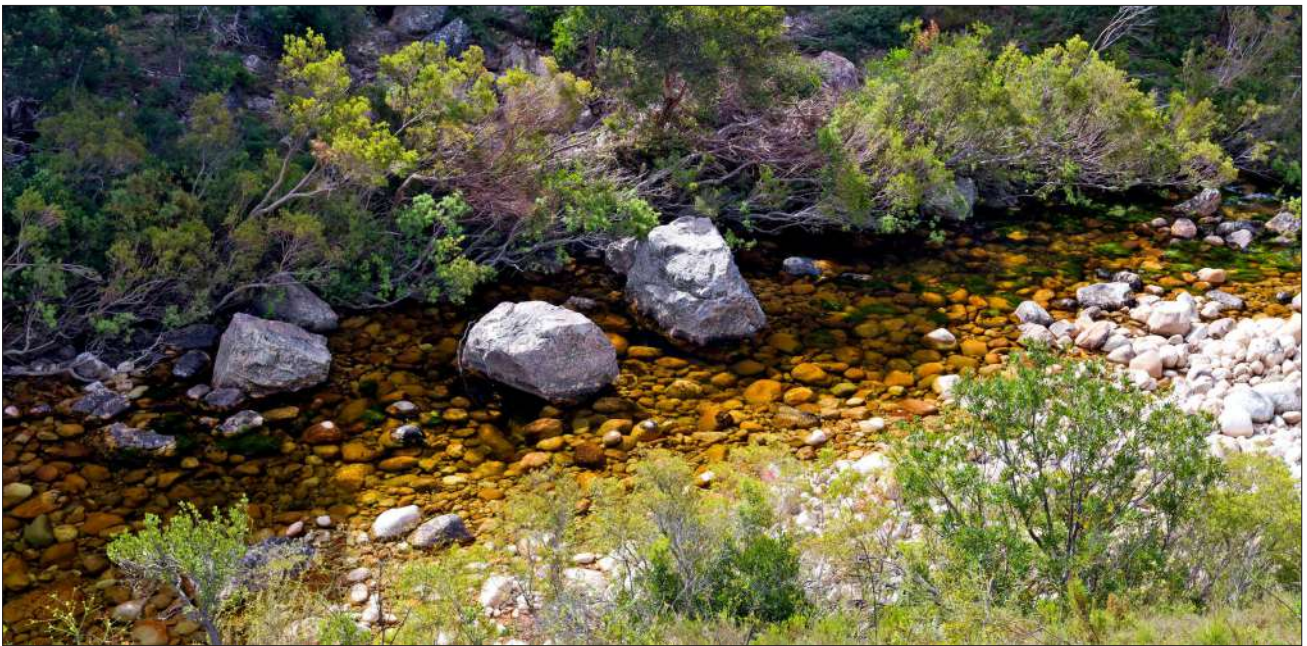
“As a consequence of the high level of rotting vegetation in the water, many streams in the area are heavily peat stained and the tannins coat trout eggs and smother them

“A 1996 article in the history folder of the Cape Piscatorial Society archive which is headlined ‘Trout in the peat-stained waters of the Southern Cape’ opens thus: ‘The dark, peat-stained and acid waters which extend around the southern tip of the continent for about 300 miles from the Elgin District above Sir Lowry Pass along the “Garden Route” to the Humansdorp district, have been tried with trout on many occasions with but slight success.’

“Brown trout survive in a handful of tiny streams here and Marcel found that simply changing from a black to a wine-coloured wire rib on a black soft hackle saw previously dormant trout charge from the opposite bank to attack the purple-hued fly.

“In the USA, trout in streams with a high humic acid content invariably take a purple San Juan worm rather than the traditional red.

"The trout streams near Cape Town are also peat-stained but not to the same extent."



The whisky-coloured trout streams near Cape Town where flies containing purple might be a trigger for trout – photo by Brett Leslie

Tannins are contained in the bark of several tree species, including willows, oaks, hemlock and conifers and leach into streams that flow through areas where such trees grow. The high humus content in these areas often results in tea-coloured water and experience has shown that it is worth experimenting in such areas with flies tied with purple materials – the Snipe and Purple and Oliver

Kite's Imperial immediately come to mind. A more modern pattern, an Adams spinoff, the Purple Haze, is gaining increasing popularity as a searching dry fly pattern.

In the USA, guides have found that is they fish a red and a purple San Juan Worm together in streams with a high humic acid content, the trout invariably take the purple one – so much so that, in such circumstances, they use two purple San Juan Worms in tandem.

I gleaned this information from Geoff Mueller's 2013 book, *'What a Trout Sees: A Fly-Fishing Guide to Life Underwater'*.

Weighting the tips of the rubber tails on the Edhåmer with Loon Knot Sense, which can be infused with purple glitter dust, will create more movement and make it possible for trout to pick up its approach from a greater distance.

(L) The Edhåmer with 'Light Bulb' counterweighted rubber tails as visualised by Marcel Terblanche



We have found that two applications of Loon Knot Sense work best when creating the ‘Light Bulbs’ with the glitter dust being mixed with the first application of the resin so that it can shine through the second.

Body material

Van Klinken used tan dubbing for the body of the original fly and partially-stripped peacock quill is much favoured by professional South African fly tyers including Fred Steynberg and Jan Korrubel who runs the Kingfisher shop in Pietermaritzburg.



Tony Kietzman uses a goose biot on his rubber-tailed Edhåmer and Caleb Wilmott’s interpretation of a biot-bodied Edhåmer is shown left. I am now experimenting with what *Trout and Salmon* contributor Paul Procter calls ‘sex on a string’ – olive Semperfli Straggle String, because the flickering of light across its short, projecting Mylar strands gives a visual impression of movement.



(L) The ‘Light Bulb Edhåmer’ – above and below. Semperfli Straggle String is used for the body in the author’s attempt to imitate the egg-laying damselfly shown in the photograph at the start of this chapter

I tie this pattern on a # 8 Hanak H530BL ‘Pupa and Allround’ hook. The body is counter-ribbed with 0.1 mm purple wire.

The Morten Oland foam thorax method surrounding the wing provides the extra floatation which enables a very sparse halo hackle parachute to be used. This creates the broken light spectrum and alternating refraction that Baigent and then Tom Sutcliffe specifically sought.

I’ve combined partridge and CDL in the hackle.



Van Klinken uses peacock herl below the parachute but, for ease of tying and to represent the different hues of these insects I have used a blend of olive, black and copper Hareline Quick Descent Dub in the example shown below. Using Semperfli Nano Silk 20D thread enables one to use multiple turns without creating bulk. In tying this pattern I used a lot of half hitches and tiny drops of superglue.

Fred uses thin, translucent Aerothene for the wing. Gary LaFontaine believed that Aerothene packaging material had special light-dispersal qualities and used it on his Halo Midge Emerger and Air Head Caddis, so I have emulated their examples in this pattern.

Hook: Hanak H530BL #8

Thread: Semperfli Nanosilk 20D

Wing: White Aerothene on top of the hook shank

Parachute Hackle: Combined Coq du Leon and partridge

Morten Oland 'collar': Orange Wapsi Evazote foam rubber cupped from beneath the hook shank

Body: Olive Semperfli Straggle String Micro Chenille

Rib: Purple Semperfli or UTC 0.1 mm wire

Light Bulb Tails: The double application of Loon Knot Sense Infused with purple glitter dust was first added to the cream Hareline Micro Flex tails which were then coloured with Sharpie permanent markers. This adds a further layer of waterproofing. My concern was that the Knot Sense might not adhere to the rubber tail tips if the permanent marker ink was applied first.

Attribution

A decade ago, a British fly tyer, Ian Moutter, was sitting at a traffic light on his way home when he was struck by an innovative idea on how to hackle dry flies. The result was a book called *Tying Flies the Paraloop Way*. He was later to find that three American fly tyers, Bob Quigley, Ned Long and Jim Cramer had independently come up with the same idea which was further publicised by Chauncey Lively.

Hans van Klinken makes the same point about the Klinkhåmer: **“Mike Monroe (also from USA) tied a similar fly for years before any of our patterns existed, at a time that we hardly knew what was going on at the US tying scene. He called this fly the ‘Paratilt’”.**

While the idea of an emerger pattern with most of the body submerged was possibly first developed by Mike Monroe, it was Hans van Klinken who developed a pattern in 1984 and Hans de Groot and Ton Lindhout who named it. Together, they created a global fly design brand which is to emergers what Leonard Halladay's Adams is to dry flies and Frank Sawyer's Pheasant Tail is to nymphs.

In attempting to establish a chronology of the Composite Klink I would say that the idea of mixing a small and a large hackle on a dry fly to create a broken spectrum of light has to be attributed to Dr William Baigent more than a century ago.

The name, 'Halo Hackle' must probably be attributed to John Ketley and the method of supporting a softer, more willowy large and vertical hackle with a smaller stiffer feather wound through the larger one is also probably original to him.

The idea of a U-shaped piece of foam to cup the wing from beneath the hook shank in a parachute pattern was probably invented by Morten Oland. I don't know if he also applied it to Klinkhåmer-style patterns but, back in 2000 when I first saw the sketch by Oliver Edwards, it seemed a logical progression to add it to Tom Sutcliffe's Halo Hackle Parachute Emerger.

To Tom, then, goes the credit for not only using Baigent's combination of a small and a large hackle on a parachute but also for creating a dual soft partridge and stiff rooster hackle parachute. This combination was brought to wider public attention when Fred Steynberg used it on his emerger and arachnid patterns.

I would say that the Composite Klink complies with all the requirements of a good small stream fly.

It is buoyant, presents softly, is easy to track in a variety of currents and light conditions and, according to publisher Paul Curtis, is a 'remarkable fly' when it comes to attracting trout and grayling in Wales. It's cantilevered, flexible rubber tails with their sparkling tips create substantial movement below the surface where they are easily detected by fish – an idea extrapolated from Stephen Boshoff's

thread-body, CDC-hackled ant.

It is said that failure is an orphan but success has many parents. In the context of the Light Bulb Edhåmer, the wisdom of Solomon rather than DNA tests would conclude that the person to whom most credit is due is Hans van Klinken – with a little help from Morten Oland, Tom Sutcliffe, Stephen Boshoff, the Montana Fly Company and Semperfli whose strong but thin 24/0 Nanosilk thread facilitates dubbing loop techniques.

And, for spreading the word, John Ketley with the Halo Hackle and Oliver Edwards who publicised Morten Oland's idea of a foam rubber wing support on Klinks.

One only has to look at a YouTube video 'Gordo's take on the Klinkhammer' to see how universal the concept of the dual-feather parachute emerger has become.



And credit for that idea, as far as I am concerned, goes to Tom Sutcliffe – read the tributes to him in the folder, 'Remembering Tom Sutcliffe' in the articles archive of the Cape Piscatorial Society.

