

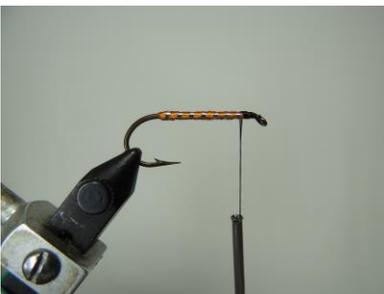
Favorite Fly **Tandem Streamer**



Spring is here and for many of us, that not only means a trip to our local stream or river but dusting off the boat, heading to the boat ramp and spending a few hours trolling our favorite streamers. Many of the old standards include the 9-3, Grey Ghost, Black Ghost, Supervisor, Joe's Smelt and numerous others. There's a belief that landlocked salmon and trout have a habit of "hitting short" and avoiding the hook and thus giving rise to the tandem streamer. In this month's issue we're going to demonstrate one of the many ways to tie a tandem hook streamer as taught by recently passed and founding member Joe Cody.

The basic tandem streamer design is one that can be applied to nearly every streamer pattern used for trolling and thus this is simply the tandem hook method and its left to the reader to select and tie the pattern of their choice.

The front hook is a size 4 standard length and the rear hook is a size 6. The wire used is nylon coated stainless steel leader wire anywhere between 30 and 40 lb.



The first step is to put the size 6 hook into your vice and tie a body as is appropriate to the pattern you have chosen to tie. Leave the thread attached once the body is completed. The pattern we'll use here is similar to Carry Steven's Grey Ghost.



Now take approximately seven inches of stainless steel woven wire and insert one end through the eye from the front approximately one half the length of the wire. Bring the inserted end over the shank of the hook and back through the eye. Then carefully pull the wire snug up to the eye of the hook and secure it with the thread and whip finish. Apply head cement.



Place the size 4 hook in the vice and start the thread behind the eye and wind back to the bend. Lay both strands of wire on the top of the shank of the hook and secure with 3 or 4 wraps. Use cutting plyers to trim one of the wires just behind the eye of the hook. The overall length should be approximately 3 inches from the eye to the bend of the hook. Finish wrapping to the eye and apply head cement to the entire length of the wrap.



Bend the remaining wire back over the shank of the hook making sure the bend of the wire is as tight as possible and secure it with wraps all the way to the bend of the hook. Coat the entire length of the shaft of the hook with head cement.



Once the two hooks are completely secured, you can now apply body material the same as you did for the rear hook to complete the tandem process and continue to finish the pattern you've chosen.



The completed flies are usually between 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 inches long. Perhaps the best result in using wire for this process is that you can manipulate the rear hook to perfectly align with the front hook in order to prevent the fly from twisting in the water.