

## Andy's French Partridge Style March Brown

This is my version of the March Brown Dry. It is tied French Partridge style and I have found this very effective on both still-waters and rivers right through the season, particularly of course from late March on. It's rather different to the more traditional March Brown Dry patterns you see but the bands of colour and texture in the pheasant 'church window' feathers do seem to give it a very 'buggy' look...and the fish certainly seem to like it!



### Materials

Hook: TMC 103BL Size 15 barbless

Thread 8.0 brown

Body: Brown raffia with a fine pale brown genetic palmered hackle..

Rib: Fine gold wire

Tail: Two dark brown fibbets

Main hackle: Small cock pheasant 'Church Window'

### **Tying**

- 1) Wind thread down body of hook in touching turns to the start of the hook bend.
- 2) Tie in 75mm or so of fine gold wire. When you do, make a small 'ball' of thread to separate the tail fibbets.
- 3) Tie in each fibbet to the side just behind the small 'ball' to cause it to splay out. Length about twice that of the body.
- 4) Wet the brown raffia and tie that in at the same point as the gold wire. Wind up to 2-3mm or so behind the eye and tie off.
- 5) Tie in a fine light brown hackle, gape about the same as the hook bend.
- 6) Wind the hackle back down the body in open turns to the point you tied the wire in to.
- 7) Wind the gold wire forward over the hackle in open turns up to the thread 'jiggling' the wire through the hackle fibres to avoid compressing them down. Trim and tie off.
- 8) Strip off the flue and tie in the church window pheasant feather firmly.
- 9) Wind the church window forward to just behind the eye, smoothing the fibres back as you go, tie in and trim.
- 10) Smooth the fibres back towards the tail and build up a small head of 1.5mm or so with the brown thread, this should further compress the fibres down and keep them pointing towards the tail.
- 11) Whip finish and varnish the head.

Fishing style as for any dry. Gink the hackle well the night before and in still water fish fairly static with the occasional 'twitch'. In rivers cast to any activity or simply cast upstream and allow it to drift down naturally with the flow. The beauty of all French partridge style ties is that if you sink the fly a jerky retrieve under the surface will frequently get a take as they look very nymph like when submerged; wet and dry all in one.

I have had great success with this on still waters and rivers. A 'go to' dry fly for me that seems to work right from early season, through the mayfly hatches and well on into late season.

Tight lines

Andy Hood