

## Smitty's Fly Box: The Black Ghost



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This was one of Don Coleman's favorite streamer patterns. It is a classic freshwater trout pattern that Don loved to tie and fish. It was created by Herb Welch. The Black Ghost is one of the last remnants of the streamer tradition developed by Maine fly-tiers in the years before and shortly after World War II. Something about the black, yellow, and white color combination in this venerable streamer pattern seems to make trout—especially big browns—want to kill it.



*Smitty*

### Materials

Hook: Daiichi 2340 6X long or Mustad L87, size 4

Thread: Black Danville flatwaxed nylon

Tail: Flat silver tinsel

Body: Black silk floss

Throat: Bright yellow cape feather (wide with long barbs)

Wing: 4 white whiting American neck hackles

Cheeks: Jungle cock

NOTE: Use CA cement (like Zap A Gap) and Solarez UV Resin

### Tying sequence

**Step 1:** Start your thread a heads-width back of the hook eye, wrap rearward to the bend of the hook, and tie in the tail. Choose several fibers of wide neck hackle, align the tips, and tie them in at the bend of the hook. After tying in the tail, return your thread to the original starting point just behind the hook eye.

**Step 2:** Tie in the flat silver tinsel and wrap your thread rearward to tail to secure in place. Return thread to original tie in point just behind hook eye

**Step 3:** Tie in black silk floss then wrap your thread all the way back to the tail securing floss to the hook shank, again return thread to original tie in point. Next, wrap floss up the hook shank in touching turns. After reaching the tie in point, wrap floss back to the tail and again wrap forward to tie in point taking touching turns the whole way. This will create bulk and a lifelike taper. Tie off the floss and trim any excess.

**Step 4:** Next, wrap the tinsel over the floss body to rib the fly. You can do this with your hands or (if you have a rotary vise) spin your vise to rib the fly. Tie off tinsel at original tie in point and trim off any excess.

-- Tying sequence continues on next page --

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**Step 5:** Tie in yellow cape by the tip and secure with a few wraps of thread and a dab of ca cement. Wrap hackle forward in touching wraps doubling barbs rearward as you go. Five or six wraps should do. Tie off securely and trim away any excess.

**Step 6:** Thoroughly moisten finger and press down on top of barbs dividing them equally on each side of hook shank so they hang in the throat position. Take a small piece of 2mm scrap foam, fold in half and "tent" barbs using a clip to hold them in place for a couple of minutes till they dry. Once dry, remove foam and back wrap thread a few turns to secure.

**Step 7:** Pair up feathers into 2 sets of matching tip lengths and then turning them concave to each other (like praying hands), rematch the tips. Holding all four feathers together as one, measure so they extend past tail about ¼". Peel away any excess barbs to leave bare stems. With a pair of needle-nose pliers, flatten all stems perpendicular to wing orientation. Holding all feathers tightly close to the stems, lay them down on hook shank and tie in with a few firm wraps. Make sure wing is aligned properly atop hook shank then apply a drop of CA cement to hold in place. Add a few more thread wraps and trim off excess stems.

**Step 8:** Tie in Jungle Cock on both sides of hook shank to create eyes for the streamer. Trim excess stems and then tie a neat head and whip finish. Trim off excess thread.

**Step 9:** Coat head with UV Resin and cure.

\*Note: If you can't find Jungle Cock, get a matched pair of church windows from a pheasant skin, put a drop of SHHAN on each then draw then one at a time through pinched finger and thumb, steadily blowing on the feather during the process. Repeat as often as needed to get the desired look.

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## Smitty's Fly Box: Christmas Tree Flies

