

Western Coachman

Tom H. Logan

The Western Coachman was designed by Buz Buszek in 1939/40, and patterned after the wet version of the Orvis Company's Royal Coachman which was designed in 1878. These Coachman designs, including the Royal Wulff, Royal Stimulator and others, are ancestors of the original Coachman that was designed in the 1830s by the driver or coachman for the Royal Family of England. This is a pattern with which I've caught smallmouth, largemouth and Suwannee bass, several species of bream and five species of cold water trout. I never fish without having this pattern in my fly box.

Hook: Daiichi 1550, #12 - 20

Thread: Black, 6/0 or 14/0

Tail: Golden pheasant tippet

Body: Peacock herl with gold wire rib

Wing: White deer hair

Hackle: Coachman Indian rooster neck or hen saddle

Head: Black thread



1. Tie your thread in behind the hook eye and wrap it to mid-point of the shank, making sure to counter-spin the thread to keep it flat. Tie in and wrap the gold wire on bottom side of shank, from the mid-point of the hook shank to the rear tie-in point.
2. Tie in 8-10 tippet barbs for tail, even length.
3. Tie in 1 to 5 barbs peacock herl (depending on fullness of herl) at rear tie-in point and wrap forward to approximately the 80% point of shank. Tie the herl down with two thread wraps. Counter wrap gold wire rib to front of herl and finish tying down both rib and herl.
4. Tie in hackle at the underside of wing base with shiny side forward. Wrap hackle forward three wraps and tie off by wrapping forward to hook eye and back to tie-in point for hair wing.
4. Tie in a stacked wing of white deer hair in front of the hackle. Counter spin the thread to extreme so that the thread will lay back over the wing/hair base while you hold the wing between your thumb and middle finger and on top of the hook shank. Tips of the hair wing should not extend past the rear tie-in point. Thread should be flattened while tying down the wing to form a flattened thread base and finished head.
5. Finish head, whip finish from rear of head to hook eye and cement.