

The Shushan Postmaster

June 27, 2005

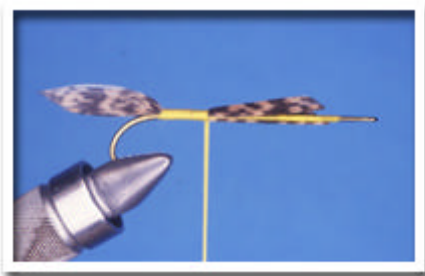
The Shushan Postmaster

Perhaps the most unheralded master fly tyer of the last century was Lew Oatman, who lived near the Battenkill River, and fished it almost on a daily basis. While Oatman tied most of his flies with feather wings, a notable exception is the Shushan Postmaster. He named it for Mr. Albie Prindle, the village postmaster, and a favorite fishing companion. Albie, while retired, was still around in my time on the Battenkill.

I wish now that I had taken a few photos of him, and plied him with questions about Lew.

Anyway, here's the dressing:

Hook	Streamer, here, the Daiichi model 2370.
Thread	First, bright yellow Uni-Stretch in a bobbin, then black 8/0 Uni-Thread.
Tail	A very small section of brown mottled turkey feather
Body	The bright yellow Uni-Stretch.
Ribbing	Flat gold tinsel.
Throat	Soft, red-dyed hackle fibers.
Wing	A bunch of fox squirrel tail hair.
Cheeks	Jungle cock, small and short.



Step 1. The yellow Uni-Stretch is mounted in a bobbin, and serves as both thread and body. Note that in tying on the tail, I leave the butts virtually the length of the hook shank, so as to avoid leaving a bump in the middle.



Step 2. Tie in the ribbing tinsel, then wrap a couple more layers of Uni-Stretch, smoothing out the body. At this point, tie off the Uni-Stretch and tie on with black thread. Wrap the ribbing, tie it off, and tie on the red throat.

The Shushan Postmaster continued



Step 3. Apply the squirrel tail hair in several layers, for the sake of security.



Step 4. The addition of jungle cock completes the fly.

This pattern and two others of Oatman's appeared in a recent issue of *Fly Tyer Magazine* in greater detail.

For other Fly Tying Projects, please visit my website at www.dicktalleur.com. You will also find information about past and upcoming guided fishing trips, my books and instructional videotapes, recommended products, and upcoming classes and shows.



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