

Dirty Filthy Sooty DHE

Try this unstoppable fly among emerging buzzers,
recommends *Rob Denson*

Hook Sizes 10-16 Kamasan B100
Rib Grey Semperfli Nano silk
Body Sooty-olive seal fur
Thorax Sooty-olive seal fur
Wing Natural roe deer hair
Thread Olive UTC



TYING TIPS

■ Tie in the wing first, pointing towards the eye, then trim the butt ends with a slight taper towards the rear. Cock the wing with a few turns of thread. Run the tying thread down to a point opposite the hook point. Catch in a 6in length of Nano silk for the rib. Dub the body, aiming for a slight taper. Wind the rib, as tightly as you can. Add figure-of-eight turns of the dubbing rope around the thorax to further cock the wing. Apply a whip finish.



ROB DENSON has fly-fished for trout for 25 years, visiting all four corners of Britain and Ireland, combining his love of fly-tying, photography and a rolling wave. Web: robdenson.co.uk

UNLIKE ME, YOU'RE probably capable of casting your mind back further than last night's dinner and may recall my May 2014 and January 2017 waxings on the subject of Bob Wyatt's Deer Hair Emerger (DHE) - or rather two of my interpretations thereof. Such is my faith in this pattern that I've decided to treat you to another one. I could write a book about them. Bob wrote two - you should read them.

It's only three years since I first fished the Dirty Filthy Sooty (DFS) and therefore it is a young pattern to bring to these pages. But I've decided this one's a "keeper" and now is as good a time as any to share it with you.

The standard DHE (mixed seal and hare's ear body, natural deer-hair wing) will take trout and grayling with almost unsporting consistency on river or lake the world over. Its simplicity and the way it presents itself - half in and half out - combine to make it without equal.

Colour, I suspect, is largely irrelevant, so there's little point deviating from the standard dressing. I'm not a trout, though, and trout can't talk, so I shall

ignore my own theory. I see no harm in carrying a few different colours to give you extra confidence in a range of conditions: time of year, lighting situations, and local hatches.

It's easy to think of the DHE as purely an adult buzzer pattern, but any DHE can be used in a multitude of situations to suggest myriad food. If fish are on the fin, they'll probably look at a DHE. I don't know of any fly better at converting a "nosey" into an offer, regardless of what is falling on or emerging from the water.

Pond and lake olives were on my mind when tying the DFS - a test that was passed in its first season on Malham Tarn when faced with a frantic olive hatch. A 90-degree change in wind direction had the usual effect of producing a brief flat calm. The odd olive began to emerge, then a few more. Then rings. Then splashes. A single DFS was attached to 5lb fluorocarbon and I placed it 15 yards in front of me. A fish rose ten yards to the left, and again a moment later. I gently lifted and pitched the DFS another five yards further on in the fish's direction of travel...

Ah, well, some you win, some you lose.

But when you have a DHE (or variant) on the end, the odds are unfairly stacked in your favour. Two minutes later, a leisurely nosey was followed by a confident offer and this time a fish was firmly hooked. A pristine 4lb hen fish slid into the net.

It's so much more than just a buzzer pattern.

Having said that, I can think of worse patterns to try for the duckfly in Ireland this spring. 