

# Loss Adjuster

Lift and hang this wet-fly in a buzzer hatch, recommends **Rob Denson**



## TYING TIP

The only part of the tying that may prove tricky is the wing. Tied in the Dabbler style, the wing is cloaked around the top half of the shank. Search YouTube for videos on Dabbler cloaking techniques.

**Hook** Size 10-14 Kamasan B175 or Fulling Mill Competition Heavyweight Black **Tail** Blue dun or badger cock **Rib** Fine pearl Mylar **Body** Mix of black and grey seal's fur, plus a pinch of pearl Ice Dub **Wing** Bronze mallard **Hackle** Natural black hen **Thread** Black



### 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](http://robdenson.co.uk)

**LET'S BE HONEST:** fishing isn't as tricky as quantum physics. A sizeable proportion, if not most of our fishing forays, finish with fish. It's like alliteration - it doesn't take a genius, yet one feels smug when it comes together. Most anglers with a modicum of experience and knowledge of a water will, usually, winkle out a few fish without taxing the grey matter. As long as we're in roughly the right area at roughly the right depth with roughly the right flies, we'll catch.

After more than 30 years of fly-fishing, I've become quite good at doing things roughly right. But what about difficult days? Well, I lose the plot like anyone else. The trick is to relish the challenge of cracking the code. It's when things are tough that we learn.

One lesson that took the bulk of my first decade to sink in was that there's no such thing as a magic fly. So why bother with the Loss Adjuster, then? The name hints at a fly that can provide compensation at the end of a tough day, and it has redressed the balance on more than one occasion. However, the name is slightly tongue-in-cheek. It is a great fly that should be used from the start, not just as a last-gasp offering.

Originally tied for Stocks Reservoir in the mid-'90s, the Loss Adjuster morphed over a period of ten years from a simple black-and-silver Buzzer on a curved hook to the wet-fly you see here. The changes were made to cover the crossover period between March and April, when lures, nymphing and pulling are the dominant tactics, and early May, when I start to fish wet-flies in earnest. Buzzer hatches will be in full swing at this time and are a major food source from late April and throughout May.

I almost always fish the Loss Adjuster wet in the classic sense - on a floater or intermediate, shortish line, shortish pulls, lift and hang - but still consider it a buzzer pattern. Confused? It's a buzzer pattern in the sense that it is meant to suggest a natural buzzer (chironomid) but it is unlike a slimline artificial Buzzer, designed specifically for static or painfully slow buzzer-fishing.

A good wet-fly wave isn't conducive to static buzzer-fishing, but the chironomids will still be there and the fish will still be on the fin, hence the development of the Loss Adjuster.

Classic wet-flies that exploit the same gap are the Peter Ross and the Butcher. Same but different, and effective virtually everywhere. 