

# ORKNEY PEACH HOG

Rob Denson sings the praises of a devastatingly simple dry-fly to fish on its own or in a team



## MATERIALS

- Hook** Size 10-14 Kamasan B170, 175, or 160
- Thread** Fluorescent red or orange
- Body** Peach or "Orkney peach" dubbing of choice (seal's fur preferred)
- Wing** Bunches of natural roe

**T**HE HOG IS A TRUE SUPERFLY: super-versatile and super-effective wherever trout swim. "But wait!" I hear the newcomers cry. "What are these Hedgehogs, Sedgehogs of which we hear?" Well, in brief, a Hedgehog has a small, muddled head, but a Sedgehog does not. Instead, it has a hen hackle. A simple "hog" has neither.

There are those who insist on a specific type of hog for specific situations, but I am yet to be convinced that the muddled head of the Hedgehog, or the hackle of the Sedgehog makes the slightest bit of difference. Your time and resources will be more wisely spent tying simple hogs in a good range of colours. Hogs do their dirty work right in the surface layers where the materials mix with light, air and water, creating a visual feast of colour to stimulate hungry trout. When you consider that the qualities and colours of light and water are variable, too, the permutations are endless.

I first fished the OP (Orkney Peach) Hog on my first visit to Orkney in 2011 after buying a couple from Sinclair's tackle-shop at Stromness. It turned out to be one of the most productive flies of my trip. It performed equally well fished wet or dry, as it did on my second and third trips to Orkney. But in the years since that trip, it has performed particularly well as a dry-fly and is now my regular first choice dry-fly on a wide range of waters.

I couldn't swear to know the exact dubbing used on the Sinclair's version, but Orkney peach (what else?) seal's fur was as near as dammit, so that's what I use. It also has the added

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bonus of being a fluorescent colour and can be devastating early in the morning or in the evening when UV light really sets fluorescent colours alight.

It excels at suggesting terrestrials, and as such, is at its best from May right through to the end of the season. With sufficient breeze to turn them over, my favourite method with hogs is to fish a team of two or even three flies. Sometimes I'll mix hogs with dry-flies such as DHEs, Paramidges and Bob's Bits just to offer variety on the menu. If the wind dies completely and turnover becomes a problem, I'll use a single fly, and probably go down to a size 14. ■

## TYING TIPS

- Binding down the bunches of roe to make the fly bombproof is important. Use a medium thread so the tie doesn't become bulky. Get to know the breaking point of your thread and push it to the limit.
- Rake the seal's fur up into the wing for extra buzz and buoyancy.
- Leave two millimetres of room between the eye and the last bunch of roe for two turns of dubbing. I add a spot of varnish or head cement beneath the last turns of dubbing for added security.

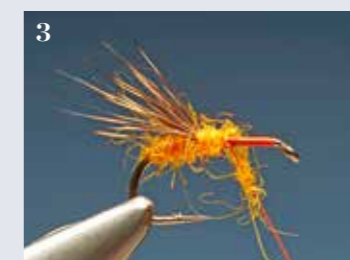
## HOW TO TIE THE PEACH HOG



1 Lay down a solid bed of tying thread along the hook, then apply a small amount of dubbed seal's fur at the bend. Select a pinch of roe deer.



2 Remove any soft or damaged fibres from the bunch of hair, then catch it in so that the tips project a little way past the bend.



3 Add further tight thread turns to lock the hair firmly in place, then trim off the waste ends. Apply a second section of dubbed seal's fur.



4 Prepare a second bunch of deer hair and catch it in so that its tips are almost level with those of the first. Secure it with further thread turns.



5 Trim off the waste ends of the hair then apply a third section of dubbed seal's fur. The first turn of the fur should just overlap the base of the deer hair.



6 Add a third bunch of deer hair so that its tips are level with those of the previous two. Secure the hair and trim off the waste clear of the eye.



7 Add more thread turns to fix the hair then apply a fourth section of dubbed seal's fur. The first turn of dubbing should overlap the base of the deer hair.



8 Form a small head then cast off with a whip finish. Tease out the hair from all the body sections so that it blends into the wing.