

## Rob Denson's trout fly of the month

# Redneck Dabbler



**Hook** Size 10-12 Kamasan B175  
**Thread** UTC 70 denier – “wine”  
**Tail** Cock hackle fibres – “blood red”, red, or claret **Rib** Gold wire **Body** Mirage tinsel  
**Body hackle** Grizzle hen dyed golden brown  
**Shoulder hackle** Grizzle hen dyed red – two turns  
**Cloak** Bronze mallard



**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.

**W**HEN IT COMES to creative fly-tying, you win some, you lose some; and the road to hell is paved with Dabbler variants. Any tyer who has fallen in love with that unmistakable profile, that “darty” dynamic and that perfect marriage of modern and traditional that is the Dabbler has no doubt given life to a thousand. I know I have.

It's an eminently tweakable template. What's more, it's a fishy one, and I for one must confess to a pathological obsession with Dabbler themes and schemes. Sadly, though, and somewhat predictably, many, if not most, sooner or later have to face up to failure, and the ignominy of a short, sharp meeting with a scalpel blade.

I would normally like a good few years' sterling service out of a fly before even considering extolling its virtues in these pages. But such has been the efficacy and

versatility of the Redneck, especially in the warmer summer months, I thought I'd make an exception, and proffer sooner rather than later.

The Redneck is basically a Pearly Dabbler with a splash of red, and was originally tied for targeting the big browns of Malham Tarn during the last days of the season. Red, in the early autumn, can be like, well, a red rag to a trout, provoking an aggressive response from pumped-up, pre-spawning predators, high on hormones. Or so the theory goes. The Redneck has yet to take a Malham fish. As often happens with our most cunningly conceived flies, they work, but not where, when or how we planned.

The Redneck, so rudely rejected by the Malham residents, has since gone on to carve out a nice little niche for itself, albeit a

month or two sooner than expected, taking fish in the height of summer on Stocks reservoir, Skye's Storr lochs, and the main Orkney lochs. With its pearly body and splash of red, the Redneck could conceivably be taken for small fry, and maybe it will - I'm sure it will - in the not too distant future. Thus far, however, the presence of either fry or fly has not been a prerequisite for sport with the Redneck. The presence of sunshine, it would appear, has, and it most definitely brings the best out of this fly.

Rather pleasingly, the best results have come on the middle dropper, where the Redneck seems to be happily and effectively plying its trade as an attractor. I like flies that work, consistently, on the middle dropper, and I like flies that work in the sun. I like flies that conform and perform in accordance with the old wisdom. Most of all, though, I like a Dabbler variant.



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