

## Developing LLS Streamers that Trigger those Vicious Strikes

Every trolling salmon angler has their favorite streamers.

Salmon anglers know their favorites may change from year to year, sometimes from spring to summer to fall in the same year. Few know why different patterns do better than others. In my opinion it has to do with color and light, the most frequently changing variables for ambient conditions.

The traditional Gray Ghost has a history of producing LLS, but few run it today. Why is that? Most likely because it does not consistently produce trophies. The ambient conditions in lakes 100 years ago or even 50 years ago is not the same today. In some lakes it changes frequently.

Allow me to reveal my techniques for what I call, maturing a streamer pattern. In other words, developing your own special tweak to a basic known pattern while staying true to dominant color and form. If you are tying trolling streamers than your style/preference will be obvious in the streamers you tie. Build on your style and don't feel you must stick with the original. Maybe introduce the rest of us to an ass kicking pattern that produces. Post it in Facebook. Many of us want to see your focus and the balance that has worked for you.

OK let's talk about how I tie the CeeDee style streamer, which was developed by my father Chet and is evident in many of Ora Smiths streamers and duplicated by many tyers in the northeast.

Chet and Ora always, without fail, proved their patterns by putting time in fishing on Lake Winnepesaukee. They trolled other lakes, but Winni was always the holy grail, as it is today. There is a handful of serious anglers that are soulfully committed to and passionate for Winni LLS. Many of these people are fly tyers using their own patterns They inspire my fly tying.

Here is an example of how I see historical patterns developing into new fish producing patterns by using modern, state of the art material. Like Chet and Ora did, it is important to “field test” your patterns. I have tweaked and tested many good patterns making subtle changes over the years I have been using them and today one streamer in particular catches many LLS in lakes all over the Northeast.

I am talking about the Newfound Special. I first saw the pattern in an issue of the very good streamer pattern magazine called the Art of Angling Journal originated by Mike Martineck of Massachusetts. It caught my eye and teased my creative instincts. I started tying it using all the traditional patterns materials Mike used like deer hair for underwing and underbody. But from the tying bench in January to the open water in April the results were not what I was expecting. Especially when it didn't run true, even more so at high speeds. But then one long June weekend in 2014, after I had made a few changes, I caught 14 Rainbow trout over 3 lbs., most off the “new” Newfound Special, and I realized I had a winner. It was like Chet and his purple smelt and how he ended up with the Ten-Ten. It was like Ora and the Maynard Marvel which became his Golden Marvel. Patterns that we could tweak using the materials we had, and that our inner fishing eye felt in sync with while tweaking the material. I can show you dozens of streamers Chet and Ora developed this way. Backed up with their records of producing trophy LLS, Back the to the Newfound Special. I could not get the Martineck pattern to consistently swim true, very hard to balance a tandem streamer with underbody deer hair to run straight at 2.5-3 mph. I also thought more golden pheasant crest underwing was important, yet it added more bulk. The original pattern looked great in a picture, but it was not a top fish producer for me. I really liked the jungle cock eye, the golden pheasant crest underwing, the peacock herl lateral line representation and the wood duck flank cheeks. But I needed to make some changes so that I could first consistently tie the streamer to run straight and second, to be sure I had a fish producing pattern. I was, and still am, loving this pattern that I can tweak, using newer materials along with my tying preferences and have a streamer that will boat many fish.

During the Newfound Special's transformation, the first step was to go my CeeDee body style incorporating a rear hook with Chinese red thread, glass silver beads on the wire between hooks as this pattern is now a two-hook tandem streamer. I made the front hook Chinese red, also. Then on top of body I replaced the underwing deer hair with Fishhair then I switched to Big Fly fibers for the sheen for a while then I tried DNA Fibers (no longer available) because those frosty fibers had more shine with some flash material mixed in. While I still have some DNA inventory, I couldn't get all the colors and new I would need to change again so, after experimenting with adding mylar flash along with Fish hair or Big Fly Fibers I still didn't like profile. Then last year I discovered Fleckta Fusion which is the perfect replacement for DNA Frosty Fibers. Now the Newfound Special has various colors of Fleckta Fusion, golden pheasant crest and peacock herl as the underwing. There is no underhook material as the CeeDee body design provides the exact look I prefer for light attraction and refraction. With the red tags looking like a smelt vent (rear hook) and gills (front hook).

After a few years of tying and trying I moved all underbody material to the top of the hook/body. In fact, on all my tandem patterns I no longer have any under body material. The CeeDee body is more prominent as a part of the whole streamer. More so than the traditional thin wire bodies on streamers so under body material is not required for form and function. CeeDee streamers are "tunable" so you don't have to be concerned about the streamer running true at high speeds, watch it and tweak it by slightly twisting all the material on the top of the hook either to the left or right as needed.

The wings are still the same as the original Newfound Special with an occasionally slight change from dye batch to dye batch. The cheeks remain the original wood duck flank feather, although sometimes I double them to give a better background for the jungle cock eye. Head and eye are same as original. This "new" Newfound Special is very much like the original in color and form. The colors have been enhanced and repositioned a bit, but it is still close enough to the original that it doesn't need a new name. Good Luck. Tie up some custom producers this winter and you won't regret it.