

## **Coachman Trude**

The Coachman Trude and its more famous variant the Royal Trude are extraordinarily effective rough water attractor dry flies, especially on rivers and streams that have large populations of caddis and stoneflies. They can be fished many other ways, however. The effectiveness of the Trude derives from the wide range of visual signals created by light interacting with its translucent tail, white wing, and iridescent peacock herl body, features which create the impression of life even when the fly doesn't look like anything in particular to our eyes.

### How to Fish

The only way I've never caught a fish using a Trude is by fishing it deep on a dead drift, and I think this is only because I've never tried it. This winter and spring, use a small one ahead of a midge pupa or adult when the trout are sipping midges, both to imitate a cluster of midges and as an indicator. As the season progresses, it can be fished on the swing as a wet fly, stripped as a small streamer, or in its intended purpose as an attractor dry.

### Tying Challenges

The only difficulty when tying a Trude is stacking the crinkly calftail hair used for the wing. Don't worry if your wings come out less even than commercial versions --the trout care a lot less than we do.

### Coachman Trude Pattern

Hook: standard or 1X dry fly, #8-18.

Thread: dark brown or black, 6/0-8/0.

Tail: golden pheasant tippetts.

Body: peacock herl. For the Royal Trude, add a central band of scarlet floss.

Wing: white calftail.

Hackle: Royal Coachman brown.

Tying Notes: While "Trude" has become a generic term signifying any dry fly with a white down wing, and many materials have replaced the Coachman's tail, body, and hackle, I have always been more successful with the Coachman, even when other versions look more like the insects actually present.

