

Fly(s) of the Month **FIVE FOR THE SKWALA HATCH**



Clockwise, left to right

Bubble Head Skwala, Stranahan Skwala Stone, Andy's Cadillac, Andy's Nemoura, and Skwala Nymph.

Skwala fly patterns are like belly buttons, everybody's got one! Here are five patterns that have become my favorites over the years I've been fishing the Skwala hatch. Each pattern catches fish if properly presented to the right water. I have found them to be more effective than dozens of other patterns I have tried and have developed a high degree of confidence in each pattern. Of the five the Bubblehead and Nymph are easiest to tie. Intermediate and advanced tiers will enjoy tying the others and may find tying the reversed feather---wings an interesting challenge. The Bubble Head and Stranahan's Stone are good all around searching patterns and are good floaters.

Andy's Cadillac is harder to see when fishing from a moving raft or boat but is deadly on selective, working fish when you are fishing on your feet or from an anchored boat. Andy's Nemoura can save the day early in the Skwala season or when fish are looking at the Skwala but not eating. Try the Nemoura as a trailer.

The best fly patterns are only effective if they are drifting over fish. With water temperatures around 43 degrees in March and April trout are looking for lies that offer an occasional meal but don't require them to work too hard. Stay out of the summer (faster) water and concentrate on the soft insides, back eddies and shallow micro riffles coming off rocks or logs along the shore. Have fun out there!!

Bubble head Skwala

Thread – Yellow UTC 70

Hook – TMC 5212, 8 or 10

Egg Sack – Black foam

Rib – Olive UTC wire, small

Body – Olive Superfine

Underwing – Four strands of Crystal flash

Overwing – Sparse mixture of olive and gray antron

Wing – Deer or Elk hair

Head – Dark olive dubbing, olive foam tied back

Indicator – Yellow foam

Legs – Black and green/gray variegated



Editors note.

This pattern is most effective in size 10.

Chuck's Original Skwala

Hook: MFC No. 7022, size #8 --- 10

Thread: yellow 3/0

Tail/Underbody: Olive elk hair, fine tips, "gray" portion hollow and easily compressible. Bundle should be twice tail volume in bulk, clipped at tail to form full underbody and sparse tail.

Body Rear 1/3: peacock herl, tied in dubbing loop

Body Front 2/3: dubbing blend, equal parts – Golden Stone Wabbit dubbing Medium Olive Antron dubbing Rust Antron dubbing Golden Yellow STS Dubbing, or similar Body is twisted tight in dubbing loop to form segments when wrapped, and tied into a heavily cemented base over the hair underbody.

Wing: Elk shoulder, slender "bullet head" type hair, dyed dark golden brown to blend with hackle, tied sparse and flared over body.

Overwing: Gold Fluoro Fiber, tied to flare over elk hair wing.

NOTE: When viewed from top, wing should flare to radius of hackle. When viewed from side, wing should flare only slightly.

Hackle: Grizzly dyed golden brown, trimmed flat on bottom. Hackle length should equal two hooks gapes, **not traditional 1 ½ gapes**



Editors note. Thanks to Chuck for his exact recipe. I substitute a white calf tail overwing for the gold fluoro fiber (no longer available). I prefer the pattern without the overwing and Chuck suggests it's more effective without the white overwing. Tie it both ways and use the overwing version on days when visibility is poor. **With either version this pattern is very effective**

Andy's Cadillac

Thread – black

Hook – TMC 5212 8 or 10

Egg Sack – Black foam

Rib – Black or gray UTC Ultra 140 – doubled

Wings – Two black or gray saddle hackle tied in “reversed” and coated with head cement. Offset wings slightly to each side. Trim to ½ hook gape.

Hackle – Brown and Grizzly

Head – Mahogany Superfine

Keep the wings long and narrow and offset each wing slightly to either side of the body. Coat with head cement or Clear Cure Goo Hydro.



Editors note. Developed by Andy Carlson. This pattern will fool the most selective fish.

Andy's Nemoura

Thread – Black

Hook – TMC5212, 14

Body – Rust Brown Superfine Palmer

Hackle – Brown (clipped)

Wings – Two, tied in reversed, offset and coated with head cement

Hackle – Brown

Head – Fine dark deer hair tied forward over the eye and reversed to form a slightly bulbous head.



Skwala Nymph

Thread – Olive

Hook – TMC 5263, 8 of 10

Beads – Two, gold, sized to hook

Tail – Brown biots

Rib – Chocolate v rib

Body – Olive Rabbit

Wing Case – Black #100 ThinSkin

Rubber Legs – Green and black

