

## Fly of the Month

At the October fly tying evening the main fly tied was the Mallard and Claret.



Hook : 8 to 14  
Tail : Golden pheasant tippets  
Body : Claret seal's fur  
Rib : Gold tinsel or wire  
Wing : Brown mallard wing slips  
Hackle : Light brown or black hen tied beard style

The Mallard and Claret is just one of a series featuring a wing of slips taken from the brown shoulder wings of the mallard duck. Others in the series are the Mallard and Black, Mallard and Red, Mallard and Gold, etc. depending on the body material. The claret and black varieties are probably the most popular. In it's larger sizes it is a very good lake fly, generally used as a dropper, with the smaller sizes used in rivers. Some English lake anglers swear by it tied very small and fished just subsurface for midgeing fish. Well known English fly fisherman and author John Goddard in his book *Trout Flies of Stillwater* called it "the best all-round fly one is likely to find".

Although it's an old pattern it is still very popular with UK lake and reservoir fishermen and probably deserves to be used more in Tasmania. Before I fell in love with the fuzzy-wuzzy I used it often and caught a few fish in amongst the drowned timber in Arthurs Lake. Considering the fact that I tied up a few at the fly tying evening I might give the fuzzy-wuzzy a rest and try it at the Lindsay Haslem weekend.

Alan Taylor

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