



HARRIS SPECIAL

The Harris Special has deep roots in New Hampshire fly tying history. It was originated by Oliver G. Harris of Warner, New Hampshire in 1931. The fly appeared in Dick Surette's Trout and Salmon Fly Index. The fly was very popular throughout New England in the 1960's when the fly was sold by Lonnie Harris to commercial distributors. The son of Oliver Harris, Gordon "Lefty" Harris continued the flies legacy in the Wolfboro/Ossipee area. Lefty was the manager of the Winnepesaukee Ski and Sport Shop in Wolfboro for many years. Former Fish and Game Lieutenant Rick Estes says that as a young boy he hunted wood duck and provided the feathers to Lefty.

In the years when Janet and I ran Mountain Angler in Ossipee, the Harris Special was one of our best selling flies. The fly was used extensively in the area trout ponds. One of our favorite customers, Mr. Buchanan of Ossipee, used nothing but the Harris Special in Duncan Lake and to my knowledge never went home without a mess of trout for supper.

I'm showing two patterns here. One is said to be the original by Lefty and the other is the one given in Dick Surette's book.



Original Harris Special

HOOK: STREAMER

THREAD: BLACK

TAIL: RED SQUIRREL TAIL

BODY: SILVER TINSEL

WING: WOOD DUCK, TIED ON TOP, VEILED

TYING NOTE: TIE SHORT TO PREVENT SHORT STRIKES

Dick Surette's Harris Special

HOOK: STREAMER

THREAD: BLACK

TAIL: SMALL BUNCH OF GOLDEN PHEASANT TIPPETS

BODY: FLAT SILVER TINSEL

THROAT: SPARSE RED BUCKTAIL 1/2 THE LENGTH OF HOOK

WING: SPARSE WHITE BUCKTAIL VEILED WITH LEMON WOOD DUCK