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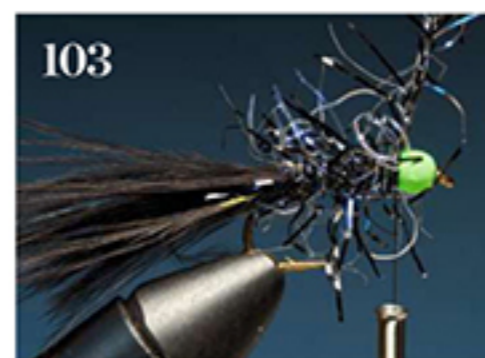
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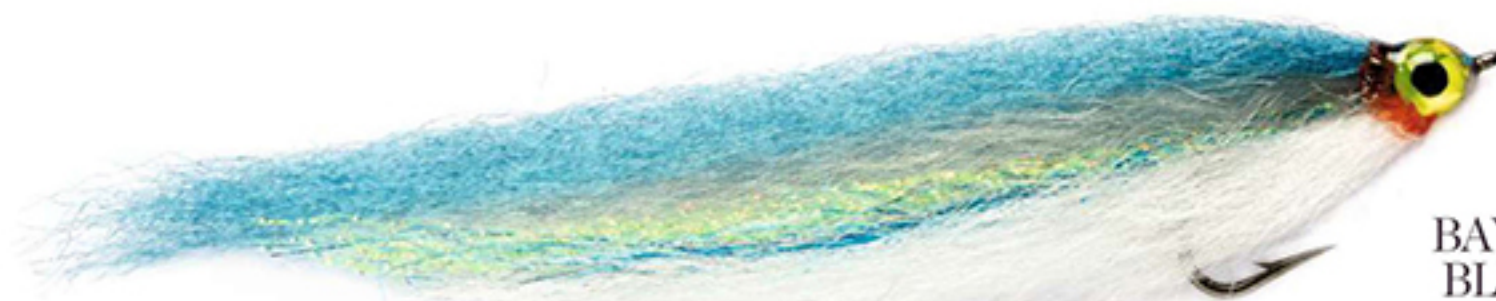
A mixed case of fine patterns from the vice of Frenchman Philippe Dolivet



WHILE THE LIFE OF A fishing instructor or guide might seem idyllic, it does come with pressures, not least a client's expectations. It takes a special type of person, and one possessing a precise range of technical skills, to make the grade — someone like Philippe Dolivet. Phil, as he likes to be known, has enjoyed a varied career including a number of years

as editor of *Plaisirs de la Pêche* magazine, sadly no longer published, which focused on fly-fishing in France and around the world. He followed a similar path and has fished in no less than 35 countries for species ranging from salmon, trout and grayling to pike, carp, shad and bass — both the freshwater largemouth species and the European sea bass.

Philippe is based close to the town of Commana in Brittany in the Celtic region known as Finistère, literally "the end of the earth". It encompasses a veritable spider's web of fly-fishing streams and



BAY OF MORLAIX BLUE ANCHOVY

Hook Size 2/0-6 Gamakatsu SW series wide gape SC15
Thread Kevlar DVX fine translucent **Belly** Polar white EP Fibre
Mid-wing Electric blue Wing N' Flash and chartreuse Flashabou Accent
Top wing Grey H2O Slinky fibre and original steel blue EP Fibre
Eyes 6mm adhesive, chartreuse/black **Coating** UV Clear Fly Finish
Gills Permanent red Pantone pen

This light, mobile baitfish imitation is designed to be fished along the shoreline and for sight-fishing in shallow water, especially at low tide. It's one of Philippe's most effective bass flies.

"His regular haunt is Brittany's rocky coastline"

headwaters where wild brown trout offer the light-tackle enthusiast endless opportunities.

Along with guiding anglers fishing for trout and grayling in France and the UK, Philippe, an IGFA certified captain, has established a reputation as one of France's foremost bass-fishing guides. His regular haunt is northern Brittany's rocky coastline, which fringes breathtaking azure seas. The magical Morlaix Bay is a particular favourite. Rich in wildlife and studded with numerous islands, it provides a perfect habitat for the predatory bass. Here, he launches his skiff, a craft perfectly designed for working the shallow flats and oyster beds — features that make it possible, in the right conditions, to sight-fish for this wonderful species.

One of his most effective bass flies is the Bay of Morlaix Blue Anchovy, which Philippe normally fishes on either a 7wt or 8wt floating or intermediate line. This set-up allows him to fish either over the shallow flats between islands, or the drop-offs along the edges of deeper channels. The fluorocarbon leader strength varies from 8lb to 12lb, the diameter

depending on water clarity, fly size and the density of snags where the fish are lying.

Closer to Philippe's home is Lac du Drennec, a man-made lake stocked with rainbow and brown trout. It's a rich water with abundant insect life and a good head of grown-on fish that require a careful approach. Here, one of Philippe's most successful patterns is his Drennec Woodcock, a classic hackled wet-fly made of natural Breton materials, including hare's fur and woodcock feather. The collar of woodcock, a hydrophobic feather, helps the fly stay up in the surface film. It's also tied with a body of olive dubbing ribbed with copper or silver wire and a lighter woodcock feather, so it can suggest anything from a caddis fly to a lake olive.

When trout are feeding on small midges, the DoDu, or Drennec Midge Emerger, often comes to the rescue. Philippe designed this fly in collaboration with his friend Pascal Dubois; the name DoDu is constructed from the first syllables of their surnames. The pattern is tied to sit low in the water and it's important that the short para-post wing sits vertically. The thread body is tapered, the ➤

DRENNEC WOODCOCK

Hook Size 12-16 TMC 3761SP-BL **Thread** Claret Gordon Griffith's 14/0
Body Natural hare's ear dubbing **Rib** Fine gold wire **Tail** 10-12 fibres of "pardo encendido" Coq de Leon, tied short **Collar** Woodcock soft hackle feather (2/3 turns max) **Head** Claret tying thread

This is one of Philippe's most popular signature patterns and is even trademarked. The combination of the hare's fur body and woodcock hackle makes it a very effective general nymph pattern.



HOW TO TIE THE EMERGING CADDIS



Run the thread down the shank, taking it just around the curve of the bend. Select a length of brown Sparkle Yarn and divide into four strands.



Catch in the strands evenly around the hook — one on top, one underneath and one either side. Using a brush or needle-tip, tease out the fibres.



Draw the fibres back. Apply a pinch of chocolate brown dubbing and form it into a thin rope to create a slim body covering half the shank.



Divide the yarn into two bunches and draw them over the top, underneath and around the sides. Using a needle, form them into a loose bubble.



Secure the ends of the yarn and trim off the waste. Prepare a small woodcock "CDC" plume by stroking back its fibres. Catch it in by its tip.



Using hackle pliers, grasp the woodcock feather by its stem and apply two close turns, stroking the fibres back as each is made.



Secure the hackle base with thread then trim waste. Stroke the woodcock back, then apply turns of dubbed Scintilla towards the eye.



Add more turns of dubbing to create a bulky thorax. Cast off the thread with a whip finish. Tease out the thorax fur to soften its outline.



DODU DRENNEC MIDGE EMERGER

Hook Size 14-20 TMC 5230/100/100SP-BL
Thread and body 8/0 Uni thread in olive, tan, black and cream
Wing White Z-Lon or Hareline Para Post Wing plus two strands of pearl Flashabou Accent
Tail White Z-Lon or Hareline Para Post Wing

When fished dry this pattern imitates an adult buzzer, but it can also be taken, when it's slightly drowned, as an emerger. Tied small it can be a real "day saver" when targeting spooky, educated fish in calm conditions.



EMERGING CADDIS SPARKLE PUPA

Hook Size 14-18 TMC 206 BL or 226BL
Thread: 8/0 olive or brown
Bubble La Fontaine Antron Sparkle Yarn, brown or dark green
Abdomen/body Fly-Rite (no.40 caddis pupa green and no.6 chocolate brown)
Collar Woodcock CDC
Thorax Scintilla Dubbing (no.29 dark hare's mask and no.84 rhyacophila green)

This imitation of an emerging caddis or sedge fly can be tied in a number of colour combinations and to match any number of species. It's particularly effective for tempting ultra-selective fish even when they are feeding on tiny insects.

"A size 18 or 20 can save the day when chasing spooky overwintered fish"

combination of wing and body creating a small silhouette, even on a reasonably large hook. It's highly effective when trout are feeding on tiny adult midges like those found on Drennec. A size 18 or 20 can save the day when chasing spooky overwintered fish in bright calm conditions and it also works well for wild river trout and grayling.

The Saint Phil Black Nymph was designed 25 years ago when Philippe was heavily involved in stillwater competitions. The pattern was first tied on the shores of a small, clear Normandy reservoir where Philippe fished a competition called the Saint-Philbert, the name taken from the village of Saint-Philbert-sur-Risle. It won him a number of competitions in France and the UK, and has been ever present in his nymph box since. It is best fished on a long fluorocarbon leader with a slow figure-of-eight retrieve.

The Mayfly Cripple Emerger is an adaptation of the Quigley Cripple Green Drake Emerger. Philippe met its inventor, Bob Quigley, 35 years ago when Bob was his guide on the Fall River in Northern California. They shared some great fishing moments and when Philippe took the chance to examine the contents of Bob's fly-boxes, he instantly recognised him as an innovative genius. Philippe's version is effective with picky trout, especially when they're ignoring duns and preferring emergers or stillborn naturals. It has to be fished like a dry-fly.

The Emerging Caddis Sparkle Pupa may be tied in different colour combinations, depending on the caddis species that are hatching. On Brittany's rivers, which are similar to many in the UK, brown, green and black versions are most effective, while a fly with a translucent white bubble can be highly productive. Interestingly, the Pupa often works well on bigger fish, even those feeding on tiny insects. With its sparkling bubble suggesting a vulnerable emerging caddis, it can make fish lose their wariness and take confidently even in bright conditions. Tied on a size 12-14 hook, it is also effective in still water during the evening hatch.

You can find out more about Philippe at brittanyflyfishing.com/en ■

WORDS AND PICTURES: PETER GATHERCOLE



SAINT PHIL BLACK NYMPH

Hook Size 12-16 TMC 3761SP-BL
Weight 6-8 turns of fine lead wire
Thread Black
Tail Natural guinea fowl fibres
Rib Fine Flashback pearl tinsel
Body Black pigeon herl
Thorax Dyed-red peacock herl
Legs Natural guinea fowl fibres, three or four on each side

This nymph is a killer in clear, shallow water, especially in the spring when water temperatures are still low. It works best fished on the point of a long, fine leader using a slow figure-of-eight retrieve.



MAYFLY CRIPPLE EMERGER

Hook Size 10-12 TMC 200R or Ahrex FW501 **Thread** Roman Moser Power Silk 10/0, olive **Tail** Light brown mallard fibres
Exuvia (shuck) Olive Hareline Para Post
Rib Olive-dyed peacock herl
Body/abdomen Sandy yellow thick Kevlar thread
Thorax Dark golden-olive Scintilla dubbing
Wing Fine dyed-olive deer hair
Hackle Two dyed-olive cock neck hackles or dyed-olive grizzle hackles

This generic mayfly imitation can be tied in a variety of colours and shades to imitate a wide range of mayfly species. The cripple style is particularly effective when trout are ignoring the fully formed duns.