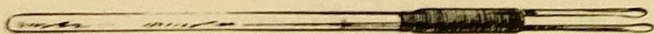


- Hold the wing slips correctly between thumb and forefinger on top of the hook shank.
- Draw an imaginary 'tie-in line' on the wing slips before tying them down with the thread (see steps 8 and 9).
- Take the loop loosely over the wings then pull down gently. Take a second loop *behind* the first and pull down on this one a bit tighter to secure the wings.

If you fail the first time, don't worry. If you're anything like me, you'll end up with plenty of wings all split and misshapen. Just start again and try to have fun until you get it right. It's the first step anyway, so when the wings are tied in properly you can start the rest of the fly with confidence.



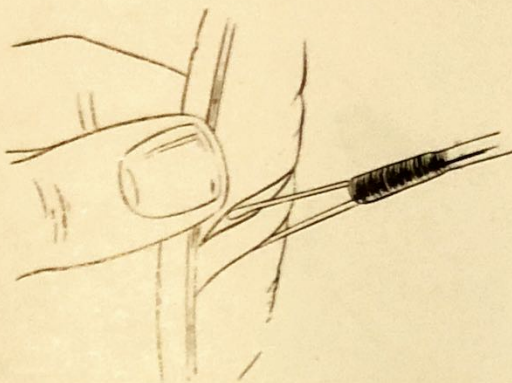
1. Measure the distance between the hook point and the shank. This can be done by holding the hook against the feather or it can be done with a wing divider (see 1A).



1A. You can make a wing divider by whipping two thin strands of copper wire (about the thickness of paperclip wire) to a thin piece of dowel or bamboo. The 'jaws' can be prised open or closed to measure the hook gape. Poul Jorgensen first made one by cutting a paper clip in half and putting the pieces in the jaws of an Exacto knife handle.



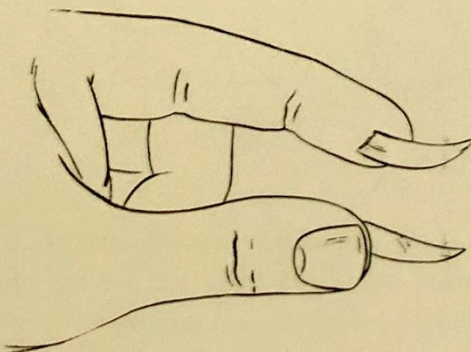
2. Take two secondary wing feathers—one from the *right* wing, the other from the *left*. The feathers should be matching opposites.



3. Measure a section and separate with the wing gauge. Do the exact same for the same area of the opposite feather.



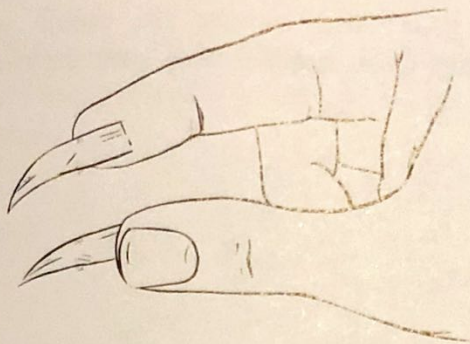
4. With sharp scissors cut the section away, close to the stalk.



5. Moisten your thumb and inside finger and pick up the two slips, shiny side together, curve facing *out*.

Tying in wing slips for a wet fly

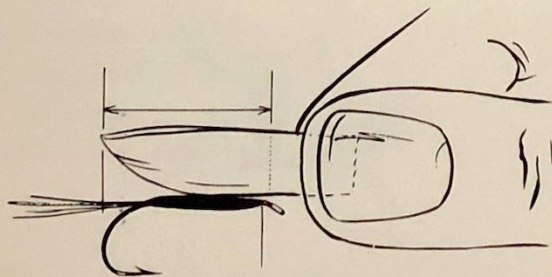
Measure and remove slips from opposing feathers the way you would for a dry fly. Instead of the slips curving out (as in the dry fly) the slips for a wet fly should curve in—the shiny side on the outside.



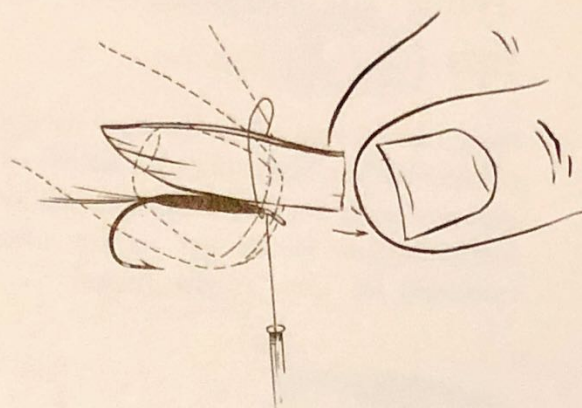
1. Moisten thumb and finger tips, place slips side by side, pick them up between thumb and index finger of the right hand and match them up for length and width (as in dry fly).



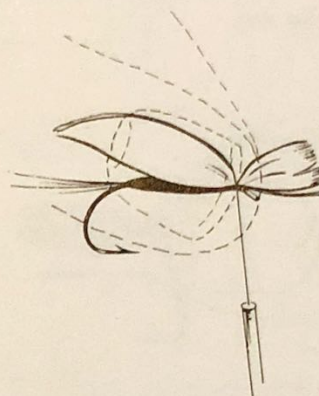
2. While holding them, gently stroke the slips to remove any excess curve.



3. Measure them for correct proportion against the hook shank.



4. Change the slips to your left hand and hold them in position on top of the hook shank; take a loop of thread over the slips (as in dry fly).



5. Pull down on the thread and gently apply tension; this will secure the wing. Without moving your fingers, take another two or three turns in *front* of the first turn.



6. Cut unwanted material away with scissors and tie over the trimmed ends with thread. Whip finish.