



## Vernon S. (Pete) Hidy

Founder of the Fly Fisher's Club of Oregon  
 First President of Fly Fisher's Club of Oregon  
 Founding Editor of "The Creel"  
 Coined the term "flymph"

The Art of Tying the Wet Fly, 1941...and Tying the Flymph, 1971. with James E. Leisenring.



It is my hope that your interest in flymphs and flymph fishing will bring you great rewards on the water.

If you would like to learn more about flymphs and flymph fishing here are some great online resources for you to visit.

[www.flymph.com](http://www.flymph.com)

[www.flymphforum.com](http://www.flymphforum.com)

[www.williamsfavorite.com](http://www.williamsfavorite.com)

Great articles on Vernon S. "Pete" Hidy written by his son Lance Hidy for the Fly Fishers Club of Oregon can be found at:

[www.flyfisherscluboregon.com/section.cfm?wSectionID=3991](http://www.flyfisherscluboregon.com/section.cfm?wSectionID=3991)



Old Hat Fly Tying  
[www.oldhatflytying.com](http://www.oldhatflytying.com)

Carl E. Sanders  
 Enterprise, Oregon  
[flymphfisher@gmail.com](mailto:flymphfisher@gmail.com)  
 541-426-5751

# The Flymph

Notes on tying and fishing the flymph.

Flies tied by V. S. Hidy

(Beinecke Library, Yale)

Light Blue Dun

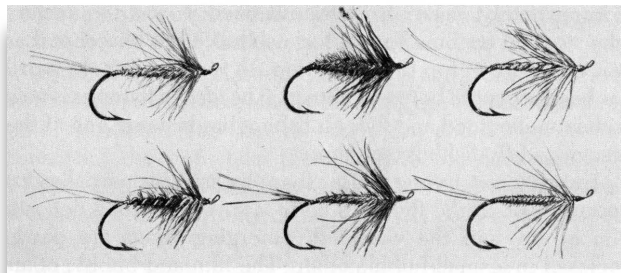
IronBlue Dun

Honey Dun

Photo by Lance Hidy

**The Flymph** “A wingless fly with a soft translucent body fur or wool which blends with the undercolor of the tying silk when wet, utilizing the soft hackle fibers easily activated by the currents to give the effect of an insect alive in the water, and strategically cast diagonally upstream or across for the trout to take just below or within a few inches of the surface film.” -The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph; J.E. Leisenring, V.S. Hidy, 1971.

Hidy was describing in his definition a very creative and productive method of tying and fishing a wingless emerger pattern. Hidy was a hatch matcher, but not in the sense we commonly transcribe to today. His methods were based on mimicry first and foremost, not exact replication of the insect. The flymph mimics the specific hatch with a blending of color, translucence, form and movement during the life of the insect that includes the emerging stage within the water column.



The Angler's Club Bulletin, Vol. 53, No. 3, Autumn, 1974.

*“That Pete would focus his energies on the humble little flymph appears counter-intuitive, but he had his reasons, foremost among them being their appeal to trout, the only critics that really mattered. Admittedly, if an eccentric fly tier sought to invent the most generic, non-descript patterns, using the drabest threads, furs and feathers, with the intention of arousing the interest of the fewest number of fishermen — the results would surely be something very much like a flymph.”*

-Lance Hidy

## Tying a Flymph

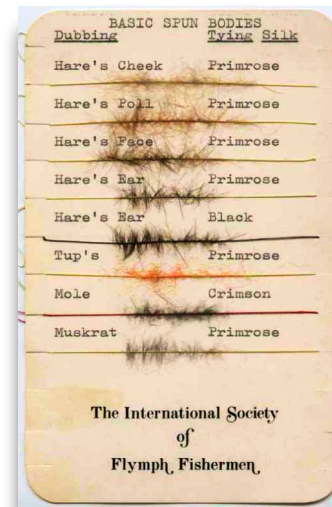
1. Wax your tying thread. Attach a hackle by the lower portion of the rachis, behind the eye, concave side up with the fibers extending out over the eye.
2. Progress the thread to the rear of the hook into a position above the hook point or barb.
3. Tie in any optional tail or ribbing material.
4. Attach a prepared dubbing rope, build a dubbing loop or split thread rope. Thread should show through the dubbing. Wind body forward forming a taper wider at the thorax. Follow with any optional ribbing if used.
5. With thread slightly behind the eye of the hook and near the front of the thorax, make 1-3 wraps of hackle back toward the thread. Secure the hackle tip with the thread and counterwrap forward through the hackle to the hook eye.
6. Finish with a whip finish knot.

---

*“You must tie and fish your fly so the trout can enjoy and appreciate it.”* -Jim Leisenring

---

**Dubbing** Hidy premade dubbing ropes of blended dubbing and silk thread. The technique was accomplished on a Clark's Dubbing Block. The premade ropes were then stored on labeled cards. The bodies would “stand up under the ‘gnawing’ of trout’s teeth” Hidy would say.



**Fishing a Flymph** “Flymph fishing is that technique which, by comparison to the “chuck-and-chance-it” use of the winged wet fly, or the hardbodied or weighted nymph fished deep, strives to simulate the hatching nymphs of the mayfly, caddis fly, or the other aquatic insects as they struggle up toward the surface or drift momentarily in or just under the surface film. In suspense, visual excitement, and pleasure, flymph fishing equals or excels dry-fly fishing because the strike is usually visible and the fly must be placed upstream from the trout with considerable accuracy and skill.” -The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph; J.E. Leisenring, V.S. Hidy, 1971.

Flymphs are designed to be worked purposefully - to be alive underwater. This is best employed with leaders in 9-12' lengths and #5-#7 pounds. Keeping in constant communication with the fly through a tight line is a must. Holding the fly line in your non-casting hand allows you to feel any take, bump or nibble on the fly and provides a means to manipulate the fly during the presentation. Casts under 35 feet are most appropriate. The basic method most associated with flymph fishing is the “Leisenring Lift”. Once a target fish is sighted, a cast is made upstream or up and across. A short tug is often necessary to sink the fly. Let the fly sink on the drift and follow it with the rod while keeping any slack out of the line. When the fly is positioned just upstream from the fish (Leisenring called this the “point of deadliness”) the rod is stopped and the fly will ascend to the surface in an emergent manner. Working the fly during this stage can instigate very strong takes. Very few fish will not “enjoy and appreciate” a struggling to emerge insect rising a couple feet in front of them.

---

**Hidy's Law - Fishermen may find unexpected pleasures more enjoyable than the ones they seek.**

---