

Tup's Indispensable

There's an old dry fly pattern called the "*Tup's Indispensable*" that was first tied in the UK sometime during the late 1800s / early 1900s by a fellow named R. S. Austin. The "Tup's" that has caught many trout in Europe and the USA ever since it was first fished.

For many years, the recipe for the Tup's dubbing was kept secret and many imitations were offered on the market that, although the imitations caught trout, the imitations weren't to the correct recipe and / or color. In fact, for awhile, I've been tying a Tup's dry fly using a light, pinkish-colored dubbing based on pictures found in various magazines, books and web sites.

Recently, a friend in the UK provided me some samples of the Tup's dubbings used by his father and / or grandfather and marked as "Circa 1910" and "Circa 1950" and, although I may not have been able to use the fur from an "unborn seal pup" and the "urine – stained wool from a Tup", I think I was able to match the color and texture of the old dubbings (quite abit darker than my old, pinkish dubbing) to tie a few dry and nymph flies, as follows:



Tup's Indispensable Dry fly:

Hook: Daiichi #1190 Barbless Dry Fly Hook, size 14 - 18
Silk: Pearsall Gossamer Silk #3 – Primrose
Thorax Dubbing: "Tup's Mixture"
Tail & Hackle: Keogh Ginger Cape

Tup's Nymph:

Hook: Daiichi #D1560 Traditional Nymph Hook, size 14 – 18
Silk: Pearsall Gossamer Silk #3 – Primrose
Thorax Dubbing: "Tup's Mixture"
Ribbing: X-Small Gold Ultra Wire
Tail: Keogh Ginger Cape