

How to...tie a schlappen jig

What you will need:

- ☑ Sharp scissors with a precise tip
- ☑ Bobbin
- ☑ Thread (Kevlar or Ultra thread 140 Denier)
- ☑ Bodkin for applying head cement
- ☑ Head cement
- ☑ Small comb
- ☑ Fly tying vise

Feather selection:

A good feather will have good untangled fluff at the base with a thin flexible quill. Once you find a good feather, follow the quill to where it starts to thicken - that's where you want to trim the base off.



1. Start a few wraps from the jig head and wrap back towards the bend of the hook at about 1/8". Trim off tag end of thread.



2. Remove about the first 1/16" of barbs off the base of your feathers.



The feathers will have a natural curve to them. By holding the base of your feather with your fingertips, turn the feather to where it wants to drape downward.



3. Match up the quills as shown in the picture below and set them on the shank of the hook just behind the previously tied wraps, making sure the feathers are draping downwards over the shank of the hook.



Align the base of the quills so that they're at a 45 degree angle to the shank of the hook. Secure feathers with a few wraps and continue wraps back to the jig head.



4. The next step may be the most difficult. You need to try and keep the quills aligned while not breaking or splitting your feathers. It will take practice to get good at this step.



Firmly pinch the base of your feathers and twist the quills towards the head at a downward motion, while keeping the quills together.



5. Slowly start your first wrap. This is where a Bodkin can come in handy by keeping quills together and untangling feather barbs as you go. Using your thumb and Index finger, pull feathers back toward the bend of the hook; at the same time as you make your wraps, you will want to separate the feather barbs with your fingers, comb, or Bodkin. Continue wraps to the head of the jig.



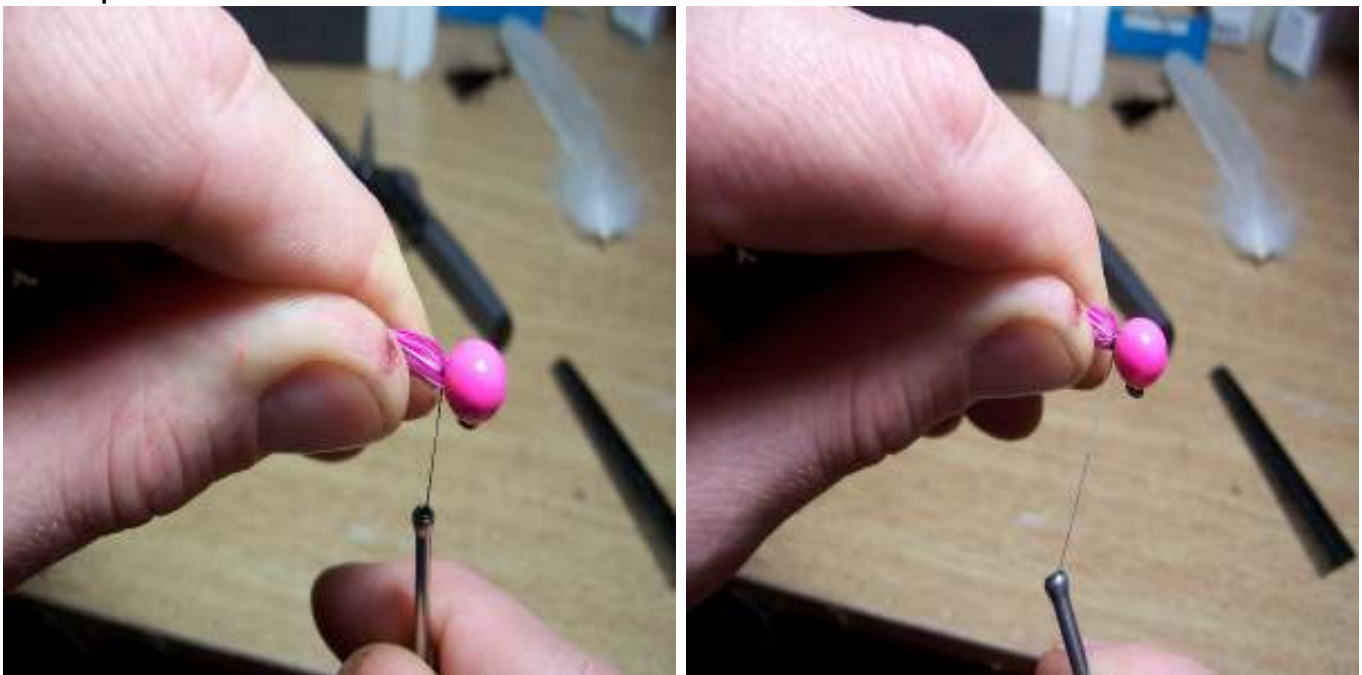
6. Once you reach the jig head with your wraps it's time to tie off the feathers. Pull the quills slightly toward the jig head and make a few thread wraps to hold feathers in place.



7. Use the comb to smooth the barbs of the feathers, your bodkin can be used to pick out and barbs that have gotten tangled in your wraps. Be careful not to hook your thread with the comb. Pull down on your Bobbin to add thread tension while combing to ensure that the feathers don't unravel.



8. Prepare your jig for the finishing knot. I pull all the feathers back and pinch them down tight to the shank of the hook, and then add a few more thread wraps to make sure the feathers are secure.



9. Add your finishing knots. There are several types of knots you can use; I use a couple of half hitches. Cinch your knots down tight; this is why I like to use Kevlar thread - it's strong enough for you to pull hard on it. After tying your knot, detach your bobbin and add a layer of Head Cement directly to the knot to hold the knot tight.

