



## The Hornberg Special

**Hook:** Long streamer 3XL to 6XL;

**Thread:** Black 8/0

**UnderBody:** Silver flat tinsel or braid.

**UnderWing:** Yellow; could be hen hackle tippets or a bunch of soft hair.

**Wings (body):** Two barred mallard flank feathers, with the cupped sides facing inward.

**Eyes:** Jungle cock

**Hackle:** Grizzly

## History of this classic fly

Frank Hornberg was the creator of the Hornberg Special. While the fly is familiar to many, relatively little is written or known about the man. He was born February 27, 1882 in Wisconsin. In 1920 he became the first game warden assigned to Portage County, Wisconsin and served there until his retirement in 1950. Frank Hornberg was a classic example of an old-time game warden and a colorful public figure. He died June 15, 1966 in Santa Rosa, California. It was during the 1920's he developed the fly that bears his name.

Frank Hornberg initially designed the Hornberg Special as a dry fly. Several sources claim that he designed this pattern in the 1920's. Then in the 1940's the Weber Tackle Company helped him develop the fly for commercial production. The 1940's were the golden age for domestic fly production and Portage county was then the home to five tackle companies. Of these the largest was the Weber Tackle Company. The Hornberg Special became one of the flies listed in their catalogue. It probably was this catalogue listing that contributed to the widespread distribution and usage of the Hornberg Special.

The Hornberg can be fished as a dry fly dead drift or fished as a streamer below the surface of the water. Alternately a combination approach can be employed. It can be cast out upstream and drifted until the fly swings below and dangles. Then the fly can be pulled under the surface and stripped in as a streamer. Fished as a dry fly the Hornberg is suggested to represent a Caddis or Stonefly. When stripped subsurface it is intended to represent a Baitfish.