



**The Cock y Bonddhu  
A Welsh Classic, 1600**

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- **Link to: Fly Tying Instructions for the Cock y Bonddhu fly pattern**

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**COCH-Y-BONDDHU**

**(Cocky-Bondy)**



This well known Welsh pattern represents a small beetle of the same name (red & black) found along the river banks of the Welsh countryside. It was a fly pattern described in nearly every major work of fly fishing literature, the earliest written in 1613—*The Secrets of Angling* by John Dennys—and on through the ages to more modern works including Ray Bergman's *Trout* just before the onset of World

War II. While the Welsh translation of coch-y-bonddhu refers to “red and black” it also refers to a rooster hackle used to dress the fly. In 1883 Mary Orvis Marbury described this pattern as a “favorite”.



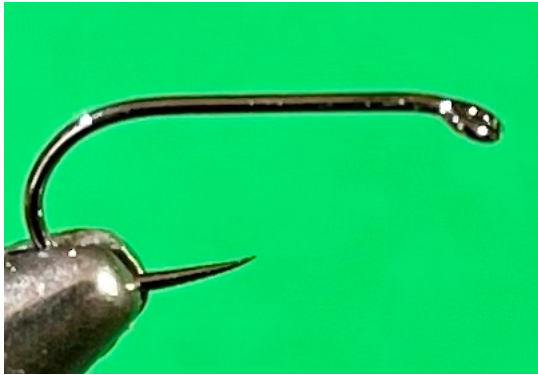
The Coch-y-bonddu hackle is quite rare and usually substituted by furnace hackle, a red or ginger feather that has the black list but lacks the black margin. Fierce arguments spice up the literature about the differences between coch-y-bonddu and furnace, caused in part by the fact that true coch-y-bonddu is a color found only in roosters, never in hens.

Furnace is very similar to badger except that the outer portion of the feather will range from Medium Ginger to a dark Medium Brown with a black center list. These feathers may also be tipped in black on the outer edges. Feathers that are "red" and have the very outer tips black are often referred to as "Coch-Y-Bondou"



## **Recipe**

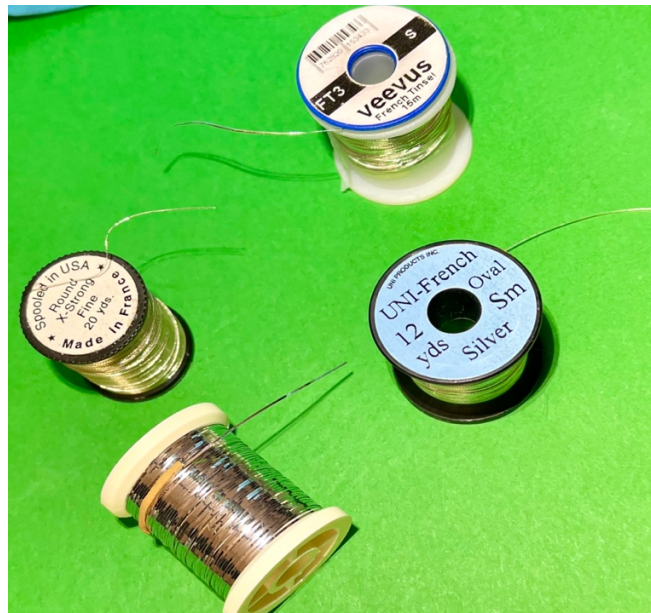
**Hook:** size 8 to size 14; standard



**Thread:** black or white, red head



**Tag:** fine gold or silver wire (tinsel) for tip



**Body:** 2 strands peacock herl, one strand ostrich herl (the ostrich herl is optional)



**Rib:** gold wire or tinsel for rib



**Hackle:** Furnace hackle, brown rooster, or Silver Badger



**Head:** red thread



## **Tying Instructions**

1. \_Insert hook in vise jaws, begin jam hitch above hook point, wrap thread to where barb would be; Attach fine metal gold or silver tinsel, wrap toward bend then back to tie in spot;



2. Option 1: Attach one ostrich herl;



Or,

3. Option 2: Tie in a piece of gold or silver wire or tinsel



4. Tie in two peacock herl, cord them, then wrap toward eye, stopping at two eye widths before eye;



5. **Option** if you tied in one ostrich herl: Wrap ostrich herl, edge to edge, toward eye, stopping at two eye widths before eye;

Or

6. **Option if you tied in wire for ribbing:** Counter-wrap the wire for a rib; change tying thread to color red



7. Attach hackle at position two eye widths before eye, and wrap toward eye;



8. Build a small head, whip finish; apply varnish

