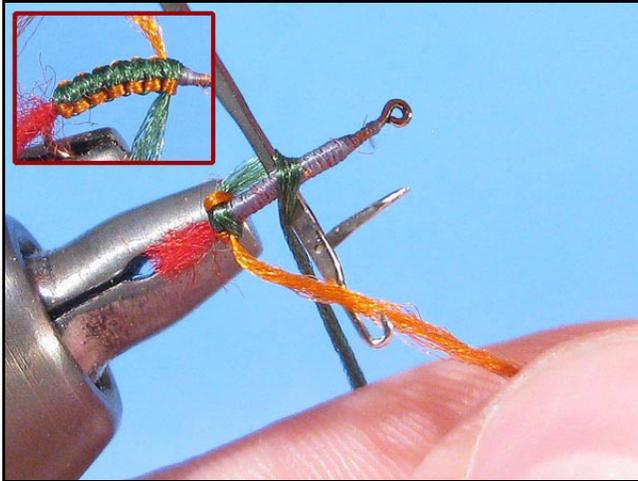


A step at a time: **OVERHAND WEAVE / CROCHETING**



Overhand weave, crochet weave, knit-picking weave... "the child you love has 1000 names". This one gives a neat looking body. A dark dorsal side and a light ventral side separated by two thinner lines of the colors inverted along the sides.

Unlike the parallel weave that gives a somewhat similar result, this is a technique based on "knotting" the body. In other words: While the parallel weave requires commitment throughout the weaving, this one will allow you to let go of the strands and take a coffee break in the middle of tying.

Before we start: Ignore the angle of my vise and turn your own so you get the hook eye towards you. This wasn't intended to be a separate SBS and I therefore didn't prepare for it to be. It was just a part of a fly tutorial that grew into a more detailed one. The green side here will still be described as 'right' and the orange as 'left', the way it's supposed to look like.

Step 1



Starting point: The color for the back (here green) tied in on the right side and the color for the bottom (here orange) tied in on the left side. Tying off the thread before starting when using a knotting tool is optional. Both ways work just fine if you ask me.

Step 2



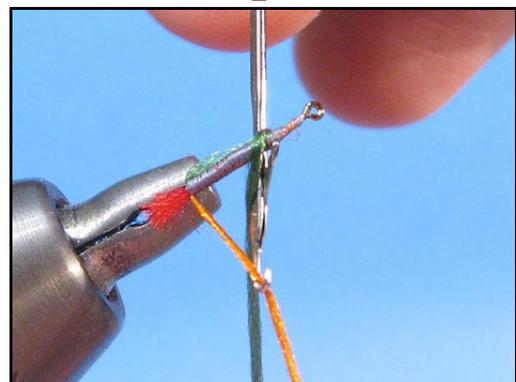
Bring the darker strand on top of the hook, forming a loop on the right side.

Step 3



Slide your tool down through the loop and under the hook.

Step 4



Catch the orange strand with the tool on the other side of the hook.

Step 5



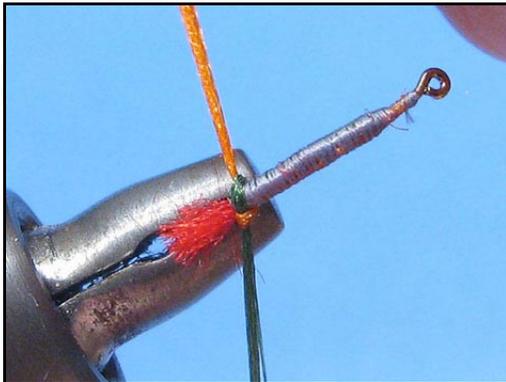
Pull it over the green strand, in under the hook and up through the loop on the right side.

Step 6



Pull it all the way and release it from the tool.

Step 7



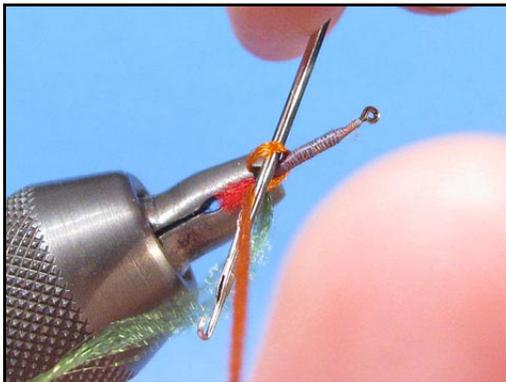
Tighten by pulling both strands straight out to the sides. Here we have a simple overhand knot, with the green strand on top of the shank and the orange strand under it, locking each other to the sides opposite from where they started.

Step 8



Next knot will be basically the same procedure... but opposite. This time you use the orange strand to form a loop and this time by laying it under the hook. Then slide the tool up through it and over the hook.

Step 9



Catch the green strand on the left side with the tool under the orange strand.

Step 10



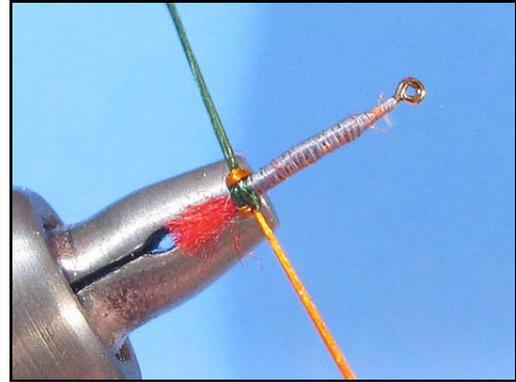
Pull it under the orange, over the hook and down through the loop on the right side.

Step 11



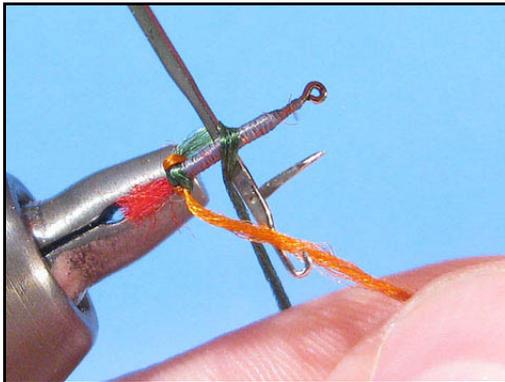
The same knot... but opposite.

Step 12



Finish by tighten and the strands are back on the sides where they started.

Step 13



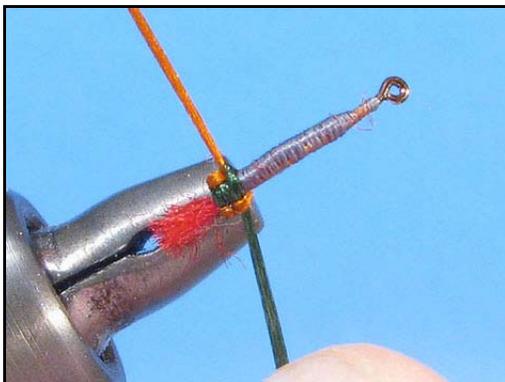
Another one: Down through the green, under the hook and catch the orange over the green.

Step 14



Pull it up through the green...

Step 15



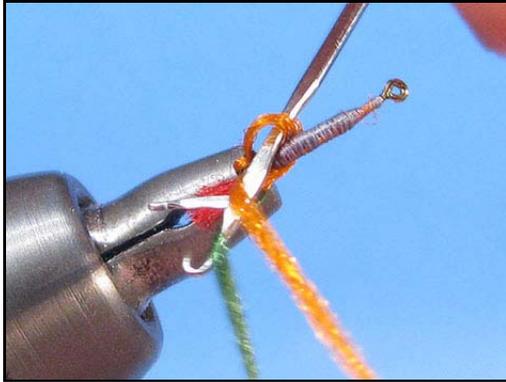
... and tighten. Now we can see on the orange how these locking loops on the sides will "cuddle up" beside each other, forming the inverted stripes along the sides of the body.

Step 16



Many use crocheting needles or other open hooks for this, but this is why I like this particular tool. It allows you to work with very small loops so you can keep tension on the strands at all times, which prevents disturbing and loosening up knots behind the one you're working on.

Step 17



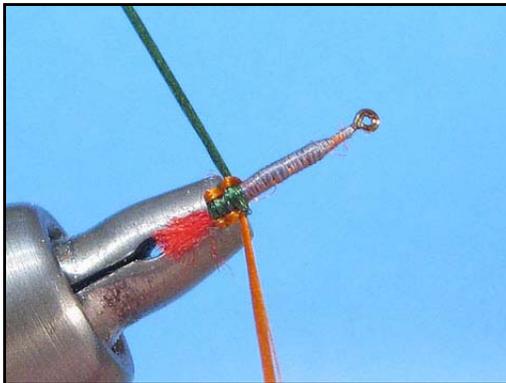
Instead of catching the wrong strand in "close quarters" the tight loop will close up the tool, which will both keep the right strand on the inside and make the wrong strand slide right off on the outside.

Step 18



Small loops is the way to do it.

Step 19



This will be the last one. I guess you've caught the drift by now. But before wrapping this SBS up we're going to take a quick look at another technique to do the same weave, that doesn't require a tool. It does however require tying off the thread first.

Step 20



This time we will prepare the knot before applying it to the hook. Make the knot so that the green strand will exit (left side) in front of the orange strand.

Step 21



Push down the orange strand on its exiting side, creating a gap between them by your fingers.

Step 22



Let the orange strand slide in under the hook shank.

Step 23



Fewer fingers in the way and easier to see...

Step 24



And tighten in the same way as usual.

Step 25



Here you don't have to think about "opposite procedures". Starting on right or left, the correct knot should still always have the top color exiting towards you and the bottom color exiting away from you.

Step 26



It's always the bottom color's exiting side being pushed down...

Step 27



... and slipped in under the hook.

Step 28



Tighten up and here we have another piece of body, this time without tools and using the knot that's probably the first knot you learned in your life.

Further tips:



Using a thinner material (compensating with thicker underbody), will give you better control over the taper and will allow more knots (giving a prettier fly). The thickness can often be "customized" by ripping out filaments from thicker materials and doubling thinner materials. Also "packing" the knots backwards while doing them gets them tighter and makes a difference to the better.



Pulling a little extra in the bottom strand will give you a more imitative shape, with a flatter ventral side and a little more rounded dorsal side.