

## Black Bomber – A Nova Scotia Atlantic Salmon Wet Fly



Black & Brown Bombers

The Black Bomber seems to be an adaptation of the Brown Bomber, named for boxing champion Joe Louis. The fly was probably developed in the 1920's. This wet fly should not be confused with contemporary Bomber deer hair dry flies.

Joe Aucoin of New Waterford, Cape Breton, is usually credited with creation and popularization of the Bomber series of wet flies, although Peter Cartile, a Lahave River outfitter, claimed to have originated the Black Bomber. The series include the popular Black, Silver, and Brown Bombers. Joe tied his Bombers with a wing nearly twice the length of the hook shank, as shown in the photo below.

The Black Bomber proved to be the most popular of the series. Fluttering jungle cock sides against the pulsating black profile makes this fly appear alive in the water, yet it looks like an unworldly life form. No wonder it appeals to a curious salmon. It's another significant development by a Nova Scotia pioneer fly tier.

Shown below are 2 dressings, an original and a contemporary dressing, with photo, that uses modern materials to advantage.

### **Black Bomber** (original dressing)

Thread: Black

Hook: Black salmon hook such as Mustad 36890 sizes 1 - 10

Tag: Oval silver tinsel & yellow floss

Tail: Golden pheasant crest

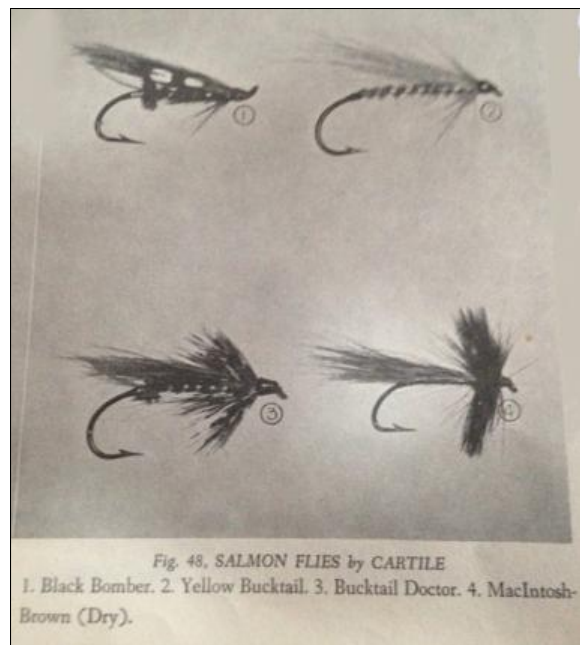
Rib: Oval silver tinsel

Body: Black wool

Hackle: Black  
Wing: Black squirrel  
Cheeks: Jungle Cock  
Topping: Golden pheasant crest over the wing  
Head: Black Thread, varnished

**Black Bomber** (a contemporary dressing)

Thread: White 8/0 UniThread  
Hook: Partridge Bartleet Supreme salmon hook sizes 1 - 10  
Tag: Extra fine oval silver tinsel & golden yellow floss  
Tail: Two golden pheasant crests  
Rib: Oval silver tinsel, medium or large depending on hook size  
Body: Black Antron yarn  
Hackle: Black hen hackle folded backward  
Wing: Black Squirrel over 4 strands pearl Krystal Flash  
Cheeks: Jungle Cock  
Head: Black 8/0 UniThread finished with 2 coats Angler's Corner glossy head cement.



Flies by Joe Aucoin & Peter Cartile from the book *Flies* by J. Edson Leonard, 1950, A.S. Barnes & Co Ltd, New York.