

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Necks and Saddles

Re: Necks and Saddles

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URL:

Now, about what each type of feater is used for...

You can tell the difference between a rooster neck and a hen neck by the price tag. 😊

Seriously, you can tell by looking at the feathers. Rooster neck feathers are stiffer and are more pointed on the end. Hen neck feathers are softer and very rounded on the end and a lot more webbing. If you see them next to each other it becomes obvious.

I'll start with hen necks. Used mostly for wet flies because they are softer and buggier looking when submerged. They are too soft to provide enough surface tension to keep a dry fly afloat.

Rooster neck: the smallest feathers are obviously used for the dry flies that require hackle. catskills, parachutes, etc. A good premium neck will get you some size 20 or even smaller. The bigger feathers are used for streamers and tail material for some dry flies. The quills can also be used for quill bodies. Bigger ones can also be used of you want hackle on you bass bugs.

rooster saddles: In recent years, some roosters have been bred for long and uniform saddle feathers (not the one in the above picture though). They can ge used for a lot of different things. If I want to tie a whole bunch of size 14 dry flies, I go with rooster saddle. You can even tie numerous flies from a single feather. way more cost effective than using neck feathers. I also use these for palmering hackle on woolly buggers because it is softer than rooster neck and looks buggier in the water. Saddle feather are the best feather for bass bugs.

The roosters used for fly tying material are often breeds that were used for fighting. Not that this matters. Just a little trivia.

i'm sure I didn't cover everything.