

FLY OF THE MONTH

BLUE DUN HACKLE

by Jim Ferguson



Hook #12,#124 Dry: Daiichi 1100, TMC 100, Mustad AC80000BR, Allcock 04991 SF
Wet: Daiichi 1550, TMC 3769

Thread Primrose or light yellow 8/0 UNI or equivalent, 10/0 Veevus

Hackle Light-blue-dun hen hackle of good quality for wet, cock saddle for dry

Tail Two or three blue-dun fibers (optional) for wet, more fibers for dry but gap length

Rib Very narrow flat gold tinsel

Body Mole fur spun on tying thread, a little of the thread can show at rear

This fly pattern is described in [The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph](#) by Leisenring and Hidy, 1971, 5th printing . As you can tell by the recipe it can be tied as a wet or dry which sort of favors an emerger concept. It has often been used for a Pale Morning Dun (PMD.) To mimic an emerger, you want to use materials that allow the front area of the fly to float and the back area of the fly to angle down into the water film. This is partially accomplished by using a short sparse tail and thin dubbing along

with metal ribbing. The amount of hackle can also be varied to either favor sinking or floating characteristics. Using dry fly hooks will help in keeping it near the surface instead of sinking like a nymph. For this “Fly of the Month” I blended the wet and dry components to get an emerger style pattern.

Hook:	light wire dry fly hook size 12 or 14
Thread:	UNI Lt. Cahill 8/0
Hackle:	Medium Blue Dun saddle hackle
Tail:	3-6 Blue Dun Hackle fibers
Rib:	Very narrow flat gold metal tinsel
Body:	Natural mole’s fur

STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS:

1. Mount the hook in the vise. Attach tying thread about 1 eye length behind eye and lay a thread base to the half shank position. Bring the tying thread back to one or two turns in front of the 1/3 shank position. Let the tying thread hang.

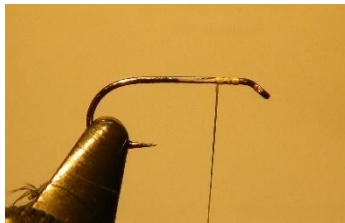


Fig.1

2. Select and prepare a blue dun saddle hackle. Strip off the fuzz at the base of the feather stem, use your thumb and middle finger to stroke and pull fibers to stand out from the stem, hold the feather with shiny side towards you and remove 3-4 fibers as in Fig.2.



Fig.2

3. Attach the stem of the feather to the top of the shank as shown in Fig. 3. The section on the stem where the fibers have been removed should sit in top of the front thread wraps.



Fig.3

4. Bind the feather stem down using about 6 flat side-by-side thread wraps. Trim the hackle stem waste. Select about 4-5 blue dun hackle fibers for the tail. Tie on the tailing fibers on top of the shank and wrap the fibers down to where the bend of the hook starts. You might want to back off one turn since you want the tail to be straight along the shank and not tip down. Tail can be short- about one hook gape in length.



Fig.4

Wrap thread back towards hackle tie down. Trim tail waste. Tie in ribbing tinsel and wrap thread down to start of the tail material. Tie the ribbing down along the back side of the shank as in Fig. 4.

5. I used the touch dubbing technique for dubbing the body. I used BT's Tacky Dubbing Wax touched to the thread to coat the thread with a very thin coating of the wax. Hold a pinch of mole fibers between your right thumb and first finger. Lightly stroke the mole fibers against the waxed thread. Some of the mole fibers should attach to the thread. If you try to use your fingers to spin the fibers on the thread, they will probably fall off. This is a thin dub.



Fig.5

6. Wrap the dubbing onto the shank. It may take a few wraps to trap the mole fibers at the rear. As you wrap forward, try to construct a slight taper.



Fig.6

7. Wrap the flat tinsel forward using 4 to 5 equally spaced and parallel wraps.



Fig.7

8. Let the thread hang as in Fig.7. Raise the hackle stem vertically. You will want to wrap the hackle around the shank so the bare stem will go around the shank. The first 3 turns should be to the rear. The fibers may angle to the rear but will probably stand out perpendicular to the shank. Hold the hackle stem vertically with your left hand and bring the tying thread up and over to trap the stem. Wiggle the thread and take 1 or 2 turns around the shank going forward. Take the thread to one or two wraps behind the eye. Then, carefully, while wiggling the hackle stem, take the hackle thru the existing hackle wraps and continue to make about 3 wraps in front(Fig.9.) Tie off the hackle.



Fig.8



Fig.9

9. Pull the hackle back and use your fingers to pinch the hackle fibers to the rear. Form the head with 3-4 thread wraps forcing the hackle stem to the rear. Whip finish using 3-4 wraps. Trim the hackle waste. Make another 3-4 wrap whip finish. Trim thread waste. Carefully apply small amount of thin head cement. Lastly, use a feather stem to clear the eye.

Fig.10



Fig.11



Fig.12

