

Fly of the Month

Peacock Caddis



Hook: Dry Fly Standard #10 -14
Thread: Black, 8/0
Body: Peacock herls
Wing: Elk Hair
Hackle: Brown and Grizzly rooster saddle hackles

This caddis pattern is designed to sit low in the water using elk hair to assist in keeping it afloat.

STEP-BY-STEP

1. Debarb the hook, mount it in your vise, attach tying thread an eye length behind the hook eye, and wrap a thread base back to where the bend of the hook starts. Fig 1.
2. Attach two or 3 peacock herls, make a spinning loop for the herls, wrap the thread to about mid shank. Fig 2.

Fig 1

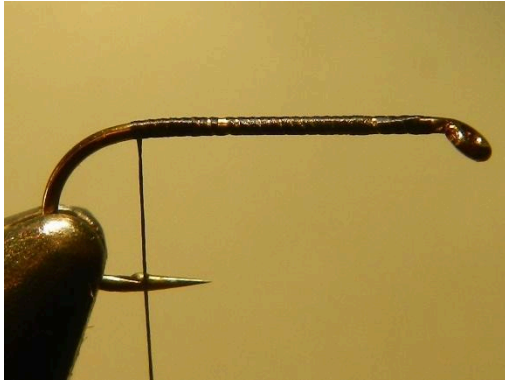


Fig 2



3. Spin the loop and herl to form a peacock chenille like rope and wrap forward. Remember, the rear of a caddis is usually larger at the rear so make several turns at the rear if you want to mimic the caddis body form. Tie off the herl at the mid-body position. Fig 3. Trim the waste and wrap the thread forward to the eye and back. You need a thread base to cover the shank so the elk hair does not readily spin around the shank in the next step. Fig 4.

Fig 3



Fig 4



4. Bring the thread wraps to the front of the body. Fig 5. Select, clean and stack the elk hair for the wing. You will tie this on similar to an elk hair caddis with the butts extending over the eye and the elk hair tips over the shank. (Fig 6) A caddis wing extends well past the end of the body. You want to tie in the elk hair to form a sort of tent over the top of the body.
5. Elk hair will flair. To minimize some of the flaring, I pre-glue the elk hair clump at the tie down area on the bundle with head cement. Make a soft wrap around the hair while holding the hair along the shank. Pull up on the thread but not too much. Do not let go of the elk hair. Make another soft loop in front of the first wrap and pull up a little tighter. Use the hand not holding the hair to control the splayed elk hair butts and orient them along the top of the shank. Continue to wrap the elk hair butts down as you wrap the thread forward. When you get to the eye, pull up the butts and make several turns on the shank right behind the eye as in Fig 7. Now wrap the thread between in the space between the wing tie in and the butt tie down section as in Fig 8.



Fig 5

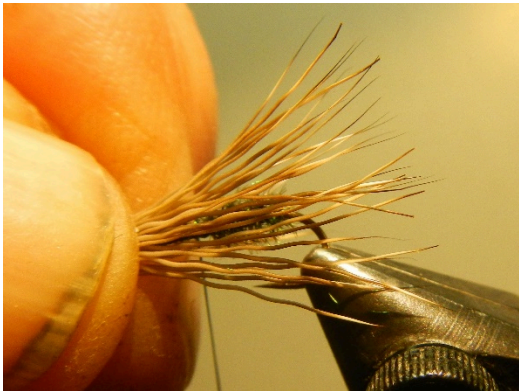


Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

6. Check both the front and back of the fly where you have tied in the elk hair. If you have some fibers that have rotated under the shank, pluck them off with tweezers (Fig 9 shows the fly rotated upside down to reveal several wing fibers that need plucking.) With the fly upright in the vise, trim the butts at an angle similar to the angle formed by the wing. Tie in the hackles on the far side of the top of the shank. I place the hackles belly to belly so the fibers angle both to the front and the back. Tying them in on the far side of the top allows for a more even distribution when you tie off the hackle on the front top side.



Fig 9



Fig 10

7. Trim off the hackle butts as in Fig 11. Wrap the hackles in tight adjacent turns in the space between the wing and head. Tie off the hackle of the top near side as in Fig 12.



Fig 11



Fig 12

8. Trim off the hackle butt waste (Fig 13). Carefully make a few wraps to secure the hackle stubs without trapping hackle fibers. I make two sets of 3 whip finish wraps to form the tie off behind the head. Pluck out any trapped fibers as in Fig 14.



Fig 13



Fig 14

9. I usually add some head cement with a fine needle. Make sure you do not plug the eye or goop up the hackle fibers. Trim the bottom hackle fibers off the bottom as in Fig 15. Figure 16 shows a bottom view of the fly.



Fig 15



Fig 16

10. Figure 17 shows a top view of the fly. Fig 18 shows a hatch of peacock caddis.



Fig 17

Fig 18

