

## **Fly Of The Month** by Jim Ferguson

### **White Miller Soft Hackle**



The White Miller Soft Hackle has been used on Hebgen Lake with success. Only two materials are used. Variations can be done by changing the color of the body dubbing. Another variation can be done by adding a caddis tan shuck at the rear. The dubbing is put on using a dubbing loop. The shaggy fibers are not trimmed but allowed to trail out the rear of the fly. On this pattern, Spirit River's Pseudo Seal was used in Polar White which makes a good Polar Bear dubbing substitution. Fish it as an emerger for the small white flies. Or if you use black, pretend it is small black fly or black caddis.

**Hook:** TMC 3769, Umpqua U105, Daiichi 1530, Size 16

**Thread:** Olive 8/0 Uni or 14/0 Veevus

**Body:** Polar white Pseudo Seal tied in using a dubbing loop

**Wing:** Hungarian Partridge tied in over back and spread out

## Step By Step Tying Directions

1. Mount the hook in the vice. Attach thread about  $\frac{1}{2}$  eye length behind eye and lay a thread base to the rear (just above the point of the barb) as in Fig 1.
2. Form a dubbing loop and insert the white polar dubbing into the loop as in Fig 2.

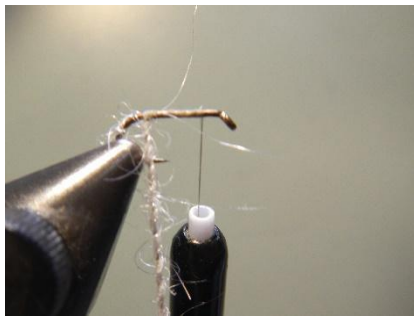


Fig 1



Fig 2

3. Spin the dubbing loop to form a relatively tight rope of dubbing. It will be spikey (as in Fig 3.) Wrap the dubbing loop forward and tie it off just behind the eye. Stroke the dubbing back as you wrap the loop in turns right next to each other as in Fig 4.



Fig,3



Fig 4

4. Trim the dubbing waste as in Fig 5. Wrap your tying thread back a little.
5. Select a Partridge neck feather and strip away the fluff at the feather base as in Fig 6.



Fig 5



Fig 6

6. Place the feather over the back of the body with the stem forward. You want the feather to lie on top of the body with the stem centered along the top of the hook shank. While holding the feather on top of the body with the left hand (for a right handed tier), make a soft loop over the

stem at the end of the body. Try to get the feathers edges to wrap around the top half of the shank. Make another soft loop around the stem as in Fig 7.

7. While holding the feather in place with fingers of the left hand, pull the stem to the right to position the ends of the hackle fibers as in Fig 8. You want the hackle fibers to be shorter than the body. Thread torque may make the hackle rotate to the far side. If so, loosen your wraps and reposition the feather and tighten the thread wrap. Once in place, make several thread wraps to secure the wing in place. If the bobbin thread moves forward while you pull on the stem, use the left hand to put slight tension on the thread while pulling the stem. This can be fun.



Fig 7



Fig 8

8. Figure 9 shows a top view where the fibers appear to curve around the top of the body.
9. Figure 10 is a side view. Get the fibers to wrap around the sides if you can. Mine did not wrap around as far as I would have liked.



Fig 9



Fig 10

10. Trim off the feather waste and form a head as in Fig 11. Whip finish the head cut the thread away and treat the head with cement. Be sure to clean out the eye of the hook. Fig 12 shows The finished fly. Don't worry about the scraggly fibers out the back. The sparkle from the dubbing is one of the attraction features of this pattern.



Fig 11



Fig 12

11. Figure 13 shows a variation using black Pseudo Seal. Figure 14 is a top view of the black version.



Fig 13



Fig 14