

SKIMMING CADDIS

Fly Of The Month by Jim Ferguson



Materials

- Thread:** Dark Brown, Black, Olive, Gray, Tan or your choice to match natural or body color
- Hook:** Dry fly, size 12 to 16 with some 18's thrown in
- Side Wings:** Duck Quill, width equal to about ½ width of gap and reinforced with lacquer or flex seal – be sure to let dry before mounting
- Body:** Hare's Ear dubbing (or other colors to match natural)
- Dubbing Ball:** Same as body or darker shade
- Under-wing:** CDC, White and/or natural
- Over-wing:** Dyed dark gray deer hair (sparse)

This fly is from an article written by Dave McNeese for the Winter 2022 issue of *Fly Fishing and Tying Journal*. The article does give step-by-step directions and also tells you several ways to fish this fly. Dave mentions he likes to fish this fly with a quartered downstream cast. Some drag is needed to create the “V” track in the water surface. Below is my step-by-step directions for tying the Skimming Caddis.

Step-By-Step Directions

1. Mount de-barbed hook in the vise. Attach tying thread to the shank about 1 eye length back from eye and wrap a thread base to the rear as in Fig. #1. Spin some dubbing for the body onto the tying thread as in Fig.#2.



Fig. #1



Fig. #2

2. Wrap the dubbed body material forward to cover about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the shank as in Fig. #3. Select CDC plumes for the underwing. The number of plumes will depend on the size of the hook. For the size 12 hook I used two plumes. Color can vary. If you are concerned about seeing the fly on the water, you might consider using white or one white and one natural or dun. Mount the CDC on top of the shank at the front of the body. Length can vary. The ends of the CDC on my ties ended around the end of the shank as in Fig. #4. Trim the waste.



Fig. #3



Fig.#4

3. Form a round dubbing ball in front of the body and at the base of the CDC underwing as in Fig.#5. I used a slightly darker shade for this ball. Most thoraxes are darker than body color. Side wings are made from duck quills. The width of the side wing is about $\frac{1}{2}$ the width of the gap distance. These wing slips should be made prior to starting to tie the fly. They need to be reinforced with Flex-Seal or lacquer on the concave side and set aside to dry completely. Fig. #6 shows a pair of prepared wing slips.



Fig. #5



Fig. #6

4. Mount the side-wings one at a time. Start with the wing on the far side as in Fig. #7. The tip of the wing is up and the wing extends past the body and CDC underwing. This wing is mounted along the side of the body. The dubbing ball is there to let the wing splay out a little. Don't let the wing fibers split. A soft loop or two around the wing fibers will help in keeping the fibers from splitting. Slowly tighten the thread and then secure with 2 or 3 wraps of thread. Fig. #8 shows the mounted far side wing. Don't cut the waste yet.



Fig. #7



Fig. #8

Mount the near side wing making sure the tips of the wings are at the same place and the near wing and far wing are set at same angle as in Fig. #9. Pretend you don't see the slight fold on the bottom of the near wing. Fig. #10 shows a view of the fly from the top showing the slight flare of the wings away from the body. Trim off the quill wing waste.



Fig. #9



Fig. #10

5. Prepare the over-wing mounting site by wrapping a smooth but small thread base in front of the side wing mounting position as in Fig. #11. Prepare the deer hair over-wing material by cleaning

out the underfur. Stack the hair to even up the hair tips. This wing will lay on top of the shank and over the CDC. The thickness of the deer wing should be on the sparse side. I pre-glue the deer hair where it is held between my thumb and middle finger. I also place a small drop of lacquer on the shank at the mounting site. This pre-glue step helps in compressing the deer hair with less flair. Mount the deer hair on top of the shank at the front, leaving the waste sticking out over the eye of the hook as in Fig. #12. This wing bundle will often push the side wing down which you might have to fiddle with after securing the deer hair. Lift the deer hair waste and make some wraps under the waste and between the tie down position and the eye of the hook. Make a whip finish behind the eye. Apply head cement on the wraps. By not trimming the deer hair waste, you can lift it up to cement the front wraps. Clean out the eye of the hook.



Fig.# 11



Fig.#12

6. Trim the deer hair waste at an angle that matches the wing set. This is like the head of an elk hair caddis. Fig. #13 shows the completed fly. The quill side wings may have to be adjusted if they got pushed down during the deer wing mounting procedure.



Fig. #13

Think of this fly as a version of an emerging caddis swimming along the surface making a "V" wave on the water. Read McNeese's article if you can. He describes how he got the idea for the fly and how to fish it.