

Fly of the Month

July X-Caddis Fly

By Dell Swearingen



X-Caddis:

Hook: #10-20 Dry Fly

Thread: Tan UTC 70

Tail: Tan or Amber Z Lon

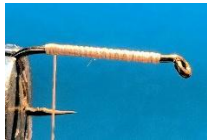
Body: Brown, Olive, Black or Tan Hareline Dubbin

Wing: Natural Elk Hair or Medium Coastal Deer Hair

Glue: Loon UV Clear Finish or Super Glue

The X-Caddis is a great slow water Caddis imitation. It is similar to the Elk Hair Caddis, with a trailing sick and without hackle. It imitates an emerging Caddis stuck in the surface film. It sits flush on the water. The X-Caddis is effective in many colors with the Olive, Tan and Black being the most common. A video demonstration showing how to tie the X-Caddis was published on March 7, 2014 and may be viewed online at the In The Riffle web site.

Tying Instructions: Insert hook in vice and smash the barb down. The hook in the vise is a barbless size 10 dry fly hook. Lay down a thread base from the hook eye to a point parallel to where the barb would normally be. As in picture one.



Picture one

Tie in a small clump of tan or amber Z-Lon about the length of the hook shank. Insert a half hitch just in front of the Z-Lon. See Picture Two.



Picture two

Form a dubbing loop. In the loop, insert a sparse amount of dubbin spread evenly along the loop. Twist the dubbing loop forming a noodle. Starting where the Z-Lon ended, wrap the dubbing noodle forward around hook up to about 1/8th inch behind the hook eye. Tie off the dubbing noodle and trim the excess. See Picture three.



Picture three

Use a brush to fluff up the dubbin and pull off any extralong guard hairs. See Picture four.



Picture four

Choose a small clump of elk hair and use a hair stacker to even all the tips. Brush out under fur and pull out hair which is too long or too short. Measure the hair so that it extends just behind the bend of the hook. Cut off the excess. Holding the hair at a 45 degree angle to the shank of the hook, take a couple of loose wraps to secure the hair to the hook. Then pull the thread wraps tight while holding the elk hair above the hook shank. Take several wraps through the elk hair with the last wraps in front of the hair. Make a small head, whip finish, and trim thread. Add a small amount of head cement and the fly is ready to fish.