

Fly Of The Month by Jim Ferguson

Montana



Hook: Mustad 94831 (2 XL, 2 XFine, tapered eye), TMC 5263,
Daiichi 1720, Dai Riki 710
Thread: Orange 6/0, 8/0
Tail: Golden Pheasant tippet fibers
Body: Orange floss
Rib: Fine gold wire
Hackle: Grizzly palmered over body
Wing: Natural Deer hair

The Montana is a stonefly pattern. This was described to me by Jim Fisher. With a little more care, the wing could be mounted with less flare.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Debarb the hook and mount it in the vise (fig 1.)
2. Attach the tying thread one eye length behind the eye of the hook (fig 2.)
3. Wrap a thread base to the rear. Do not carry the thread base into the bend (fig 3.)
4. Select the Golden Pheasant tippet fibers for the tail. Mount the tail so it is level with the shank of the hook. Bind down the tail waste and take the thread to the 1/3 shank position (fig 4.)

5. Attach the fine gold wire rib material leaving a slight tag (fig 5.)
6. Bend the tag towards the rear into a "U" shape and bind it down onto the shank (fig 6.) This allows you to pull on the wire later without it pulling free.
7. Bind the rib material down along the bottom of the shank as you wrap the tying thread to the tail tie in position at the rear (fig 7.)
8. Wrap the thread using flat wraps to the front where the body will start and attach the orange floss onto the bottom of the shank (fig 8.)
9. Wrap the floss back over the shank in edge to edge turns to the tail tie in position. Use slightly overlapping turns while wrapping the floss back to the front. This will produce a slightly tapering body (fig 9.)
10. Attach the butt end of the prepared hackle on the bottom of the shank. Attach it so you will be able to make at least one complete turn in front of the body. If you use a fine stem dry hackle, you can bend the stem back and tie it down with a few wraps (fig 10.) This allows you to pull on the hackle without it pulling out when you palmer the hackle to the rear.
11. Trim the hackle stem waste (fig 11.)
12. Make at least one wrap of hackle at the front and then palmer the hackle to the rear. When you reach the rear, catch the hackle stem with two turns of the wire ribbing material and then spiral wrap the rib forward so it crosses over the stem at several places. Work the rib thru the front hackle wraps and tie it off on the bottom (fig 12.)
13. Hold the tying thread taught with one hand and "worry" off the wire by wiggling it back and forth. This produces a smaller waste and saves your scissor blades. Trim off the hackle waste (fig 13.)
14. Select, clean, and stack the deer body hair for the wing. I pre-glue and pre-cut the deer hair at the tie down position on the deer hair stack. This seems to allow the butt ends of the deer hair to compress more for a smaller head and you can produce a nice tapered head with little drop off that would be produced by trimming the deer hair waste after mounting. Mount the wing and form the head (fig 14.) Whip finish the head and add head cement. Try to use the techniques from Al & Gretchen Beattie's book on tying with hair to minimize the wing flair.

There are several different wing variations to try. You can keep the hair up on top of the shank or you might let it come down on the sides somewhat as in fig 14. If you want the fly to sit down into the film more, you can trim the bottom of the hackle. A shorter tail might be another variation. Attach the Golden Pheasant tippet so the black bar is at the tie in position.

fig 1



fig 2

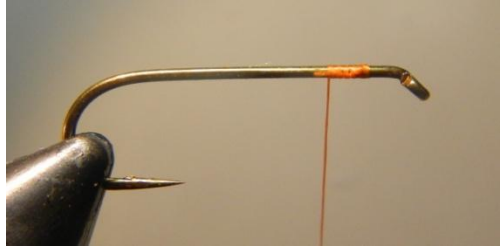


fig 3

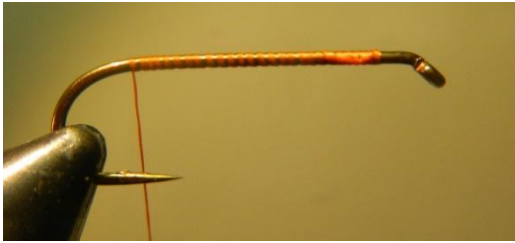


fig 4



fig 5

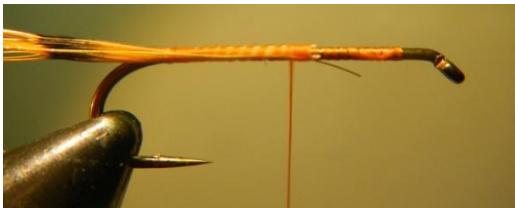


fig 6

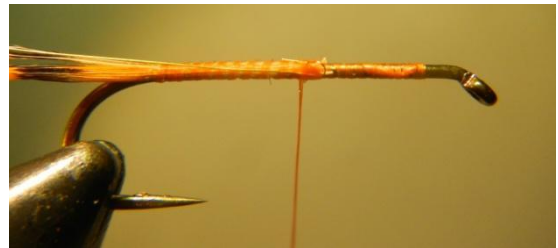


fig 7



fig 8



fig 9



fig 10



fig 11



fig 12



fig 13



fig 14

