

Fly Tying Tip: A Parachute Option...

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, *a poor substitute for DAVE*

Poor Dave Boyer is swamped this month, so I thought it might be nice to see an alternative way of doing a parachute wing and hackle. My friend Michael Gula put a video up on Facebook, displaying this technique. I have seen him tie this way at the [East Idaho Fly Tying Expo](#), and have since adopted it as my normal method for tying parachutes.

Start the fly by tying in the tail and the body, and stop at the thorax. Now tie in your wing like you would a spinner, with two thread turns in one direction and two turns in the other (**PHOTO #1**). I'm using EP Trigger Point fibers for the wing, but any similar material will do.



Lift both sides of the wing together vertically and "post" the wing with about five or six winds of thread up, and the same back down. This will stand the wing up and stiffen the base (**PHOTO #2**). At this point, if you would like a bit of durability, add a small drop of cement like a cyanoacrylate (not UV resin; it's a coating, not an adhesive) at the underside of the hook. Don't over do it!



Then tie in your hackle with its best side facing out (you want it facing down when wound). Then bind the rachis of the hackle up from the base of the wing to the top the existing thread wraps that created the wing post, then wind the thread back down (**PHOTO #3**).

Now, before winding the hackle, advance the thread to the eye. Apply dubbing to your thread and dub the eye and thorax. Finish the dubbing with your thread next to and on the tail side of the post.



Start winding the hackle from the top of the thread wraps around the wing post, down to the thorax dubbing. Keep the wraps even and edge-to-edge—no crossing. With the hackle pulled down on the front side of the body, tie it off by wrapping three or four careful horizontal turns around the base of the wing post (**PHOTO #4**).



Now trim the wing to its final height. Finally, with the head of my vise pushed forward and down so that the eye of the hook is now straight down. If your vise will not allow you to do that, you can simple take the fly out and reinsert it eye down. I whip finish the fly carefully below the hackle and around the wing post, at its base (**PHOTO #5**).



Give this "new" option a try and have some fun! Parachutes are a great fishing tool and should always be included in your fly box.



MATERIALS FOR TYING THE PMD PARACHUTE:

Hook: Tiemco 9300, 100 or 101 dry fly hook in sizes 16 to 20 or your favorite brand's standard, or 1X heavy dry fly hook.
Thread: Veevus Light Cahill; 12/0.
Tail: Light ginger hackle barbs; clump or split.
Body: PMD Olive Yellow dubbing; keep it thin.
Ribbing: Veevus Dark Olive; 12/0.
Hackle: Light dun or Grizzly Dun (I often use Speckled Badger).
Wing: PMD color EP Triggerpoint fibers.
Thorax: Dun Olive dubbing.
Head: Light Cahill tying thread.

Other Options:

BLUE-WINGED OLIVE:

Hook: Sizes 18 to 24 or your favorite brand's standard, or 1X heavy dry fly hook.
Thread: Veevus Dark Olive; 12/0.
Tail: Medium dun hackle barbs; clump or split.
Body: Dark gray olive dubbing or thread.
Ribbing: Chartreuse Ultra Wire; extra fine.
Hackle: Medium dun or Grizzly Dun
Wing: BWO color Triggerpoint fibers.
Thorax: Peacock Ice Dubbing dubbing.
Head: Dark Olive tying thread.

ADAMS:

Hook: Sizes 12 to 20 or your favorite brand's standard, or 1X heavy dry fly hook.
Thread: Veevus Dun; 12/0.
Tail: Cree or brown & grizzly mixed; clump or split.
Body: Medium-dark gray dubbing.
Ribbing: Veevus Dark Olive; 12/0.
Hackle: Cree or brown & grizzly mixed
Wing: White Triggerpoint fibers or Grizzly hackle tips.
Thorax: Gray Ice Dubbing dubbing.
Head: Dun tying thread.

CALLIBAETIS:

Hook: Sizes 16 to 20 or your favorite brand's standard, or 1X heavy dry fly hook.
Thread: Veevus Dun; 12/0.
Tail: Medium Pardo barbs; clump or split.
Body: Medium tannish gray dubbing.



Ribbing: Veevus Dark Olive; 12/0.
Hackle: Medium dun or Grizzly Dun
Wing: Black (1/4) in front and white (3/4) Triggerpoint fibers in back.
Thorax: Gray Ice Dubbing dubbing.
Head: Dun tying thread.

SMALL WESTERN GREEN DRAKE (FLAVILINEA):

Hook: Sizes 12 to 14 or your favorite brand's standard, or 1X heavy dry fly hook.
Thread: Veevus Olive; 12/0.
Tail: Dark Pardo barbs; clump or split.
Body: Dark olive dubbing.
Ribbing: Fluorescent yellow Ultra Wire; fine.
Hackle: Grizzly dyed yellow.
Wing: Dark gray Triggerpoint fibers
Thorax: Peacock Ice Dubbing dubbing.
Head: Olive tying thread.

PURPLE HAZE:

Hook: Sizes 10 to 18 or your favorite brand's standard, or 1X heavy dry fly hook.
Thread: Veevus Fluorescent orange; 10/0.
Tail: Cree or brown & grizzly mixed; clump or split.
Body: Purple dubbing.
Hackle: Cree or brown & grizzly mixed
Wing: Fluorescent orange Triggerpoint fibers (yeah, I like 'em gaudy!).
Thorax: Purple Ice Dubbing dubbing.
Head: Fluorescent orange tying thread.