



FUNDAMENTAL FLIES FOR A BEGINNER FLY TIER

ALL FISH, ALL WATERS®

FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

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WHY DO WE TIE FLIES?

There is nothing like catching a fish with a fly that you have tied. You have created something that has fooled a fish. There is great satisfaction in the time spent behind the vise, binding feathers and fur with thread on a hook to look like something that the fish wants.

We have all walked into a fly shop not knowing what to buy and thought, “Wow, I might be able to tie that myself and save money doing it.” That could be a driving factor, but personally once I am behind the vise all other thoughts leave me — it is just me and the vise, nothing else. I create and become an artist at the vise. Sometimes I feel fly tying is more important than actually fishing.

Author and Master Fly Tier Eric Leiser once told me that “They say the time spent fishing is not deducted from a man’s allotted time on earth.” The same must be said for the time at the vise.

So, I say to all you fly tiers, here is to a long lifetime golden moments we spent at the vise or on the stream.

Jerry Coviello

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GETTING STARTED IN FLY TYING

Once we decide that we want to learn to tie our own flies, we are left with a few questions. What do I need? How do I learn? Where do I get the materials? Perhaps the biggest question is: what should I tie?

Let's talk about tools. As with any hobby, there is the initial purchase of equipment, as well as the quality of that equipment.

FLY TYING VISE

The purpose of the **fly tying vise** is one thing: to hold the hook in place so you can tie on the materials. There are two types of vises:



SIMPLE CAM LEVER VISE

This is a simple standard fly tying vise. It does one thing — hold the hook. Usually for beginners this is good enough to start with.

This is a simple vise with a fixed angle and a cam lever to close the jaws.



ROTARY VISE

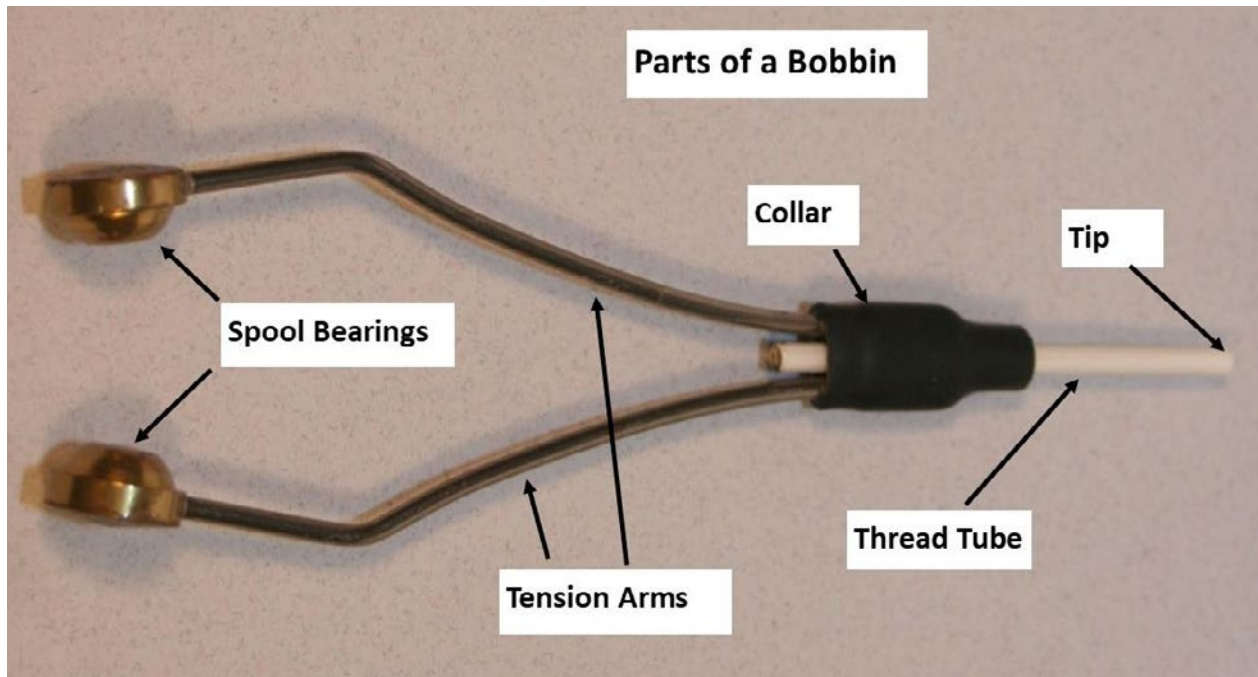
This is a rotary vise. The head of the vise can rotate 360 degrees. These vises usually come with a higher price tag, which may be a deterrent for beginners. There are many models on the market, so I would suggest trying one out before you buy if at all possible.

Here is a video on what the advantage is using a rotary vise: <https://youtu.be/TCzm2o7MiXE>



THE BOBBIN

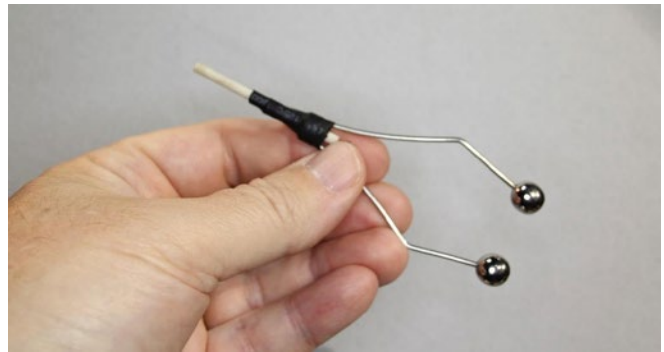
Tying thread comes on spools. The **bobbin** is used to hold the spool of thread while tying the fly. The thread is used to secure materials to the hook.



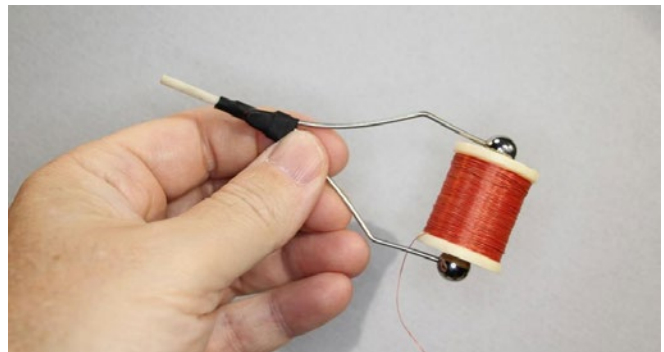


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How to load a spool of thread onto the bobbin, and how to hold the bobbin when ready to tie flies.



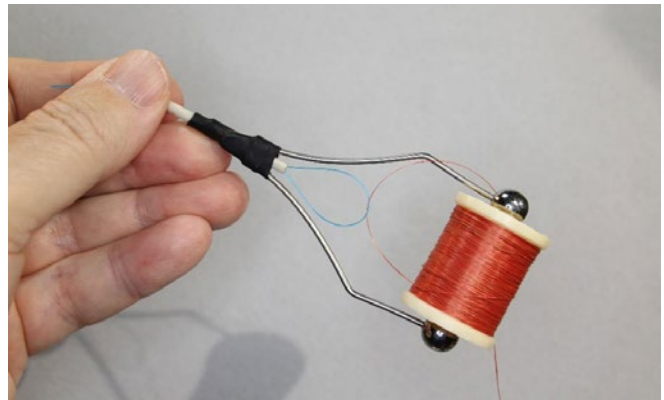
The spool bearings are used to hold the spool of thread. Just stretch the tension arms and place the thread in between the spool bearings.



Insert a bobbin threader (or, you can use a floss threader from a pharmacy) through the tube of the bobbin.

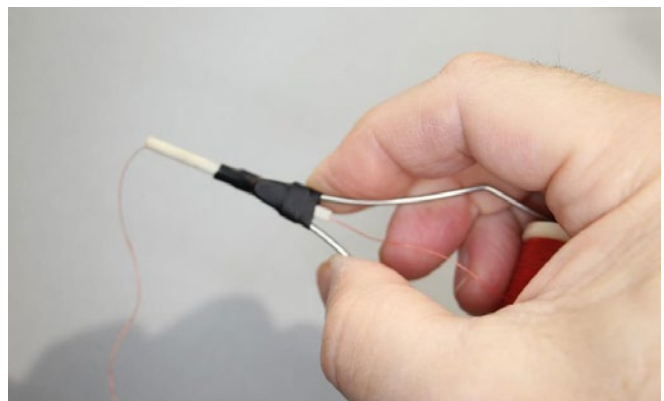
Then, take the end of the thread and put it through the loop.

Once you pull the bobbin threader out of the tube the thread will go through the bobbin tube.



To hold the bobbin, keep the spool of the thread in the palm of your hand with your index finger near the collar and thumb on the other tension arm.

Here is a video on how to use the bobbin:
<https://youtu.be/YVEbWJaI3-k>





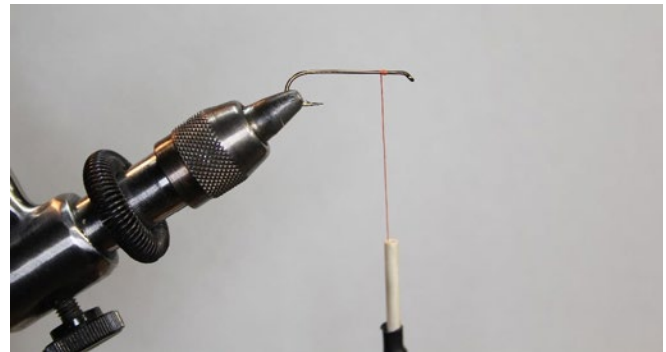
THE WHIPFINISH TOOL



This tool is used to finish your fly. Once you are done adding materials to the fly, this tool will tie a whipfinish knot.

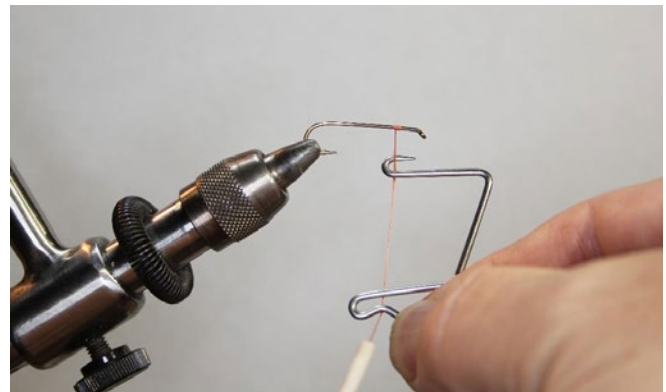
I suggest practicing using the whipfinish tool on a bare hook.

This takes a little practice and patience, but once you learn how to use the this whipfinish tool you will find that it's easy to use and makes a nice neat head and strong knot.



Lay the whipfinish tool on top of your tying thread.

The thread close to the eye should be in the hook part of the whipfinish tool, and the thread near the tip of the bobbin should be by the notch of the whipfinish tool.





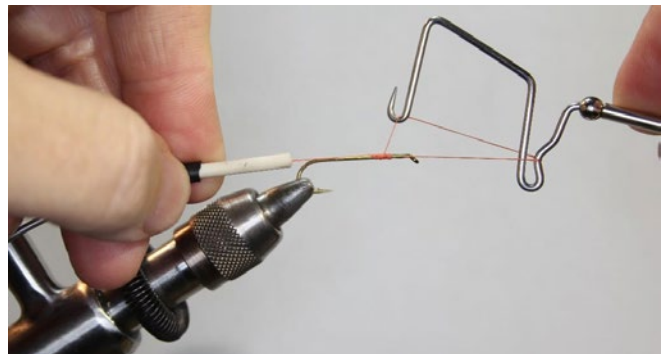
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Rotate the whipfinish tool at a 90-degree angle and bring your bobbin above the hook shank.

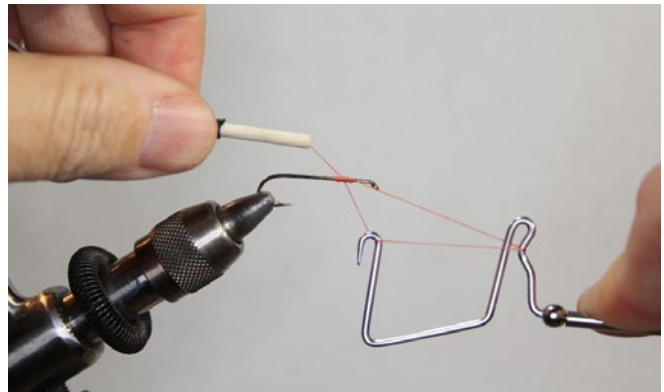
You are going to form a triangle. The thread that is captured by the hook of the whipfinish tool is going to rotate around the shank of the hook and trap the thread over itself.



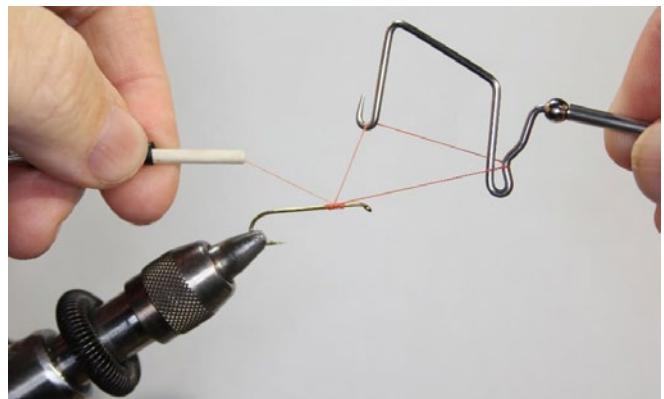
Start rotating the whipfinish tool around the shank of the hook. Make sure you are not moving the hand holding the bobbin.



Make a few wraps.



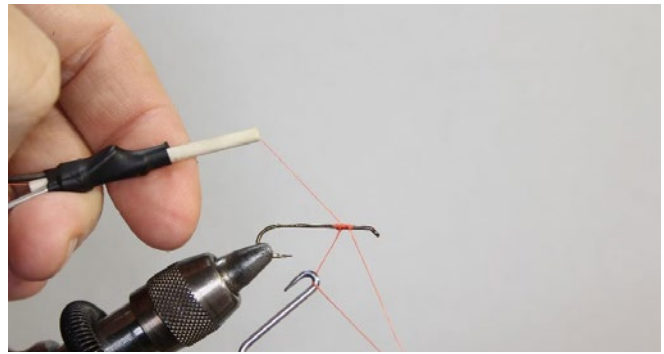
Make one more rotation around the hook shank, trapping the thread from the bobbin with each wrap.



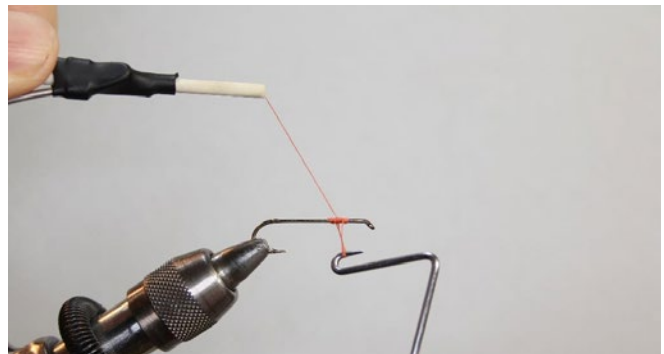


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For the final wrap, we need to release the thread from the notch of the whipfinish tool and at the same time pull the bobbin away from the shank and whipfinish tool.



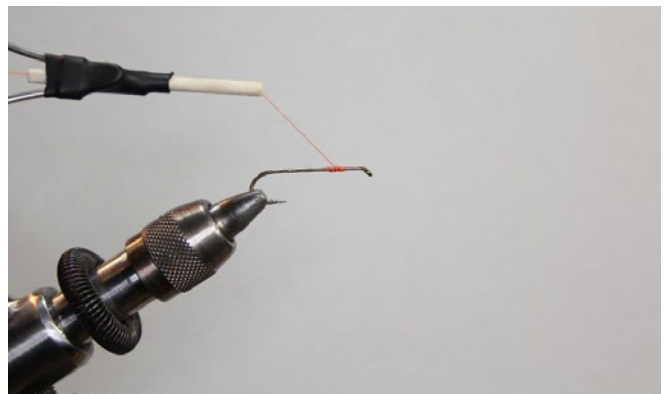
Now the thread is off the notch, and you are pulling the bobbin upward. Slide the thread from the hook, and the whipfinish knot is done.



All that is left is to cut the thread.

Please practice this over and over until you get it right.

Here is a video of how to do use the whipfinish tool: https://youtu.be/p0F-ZVa2__o

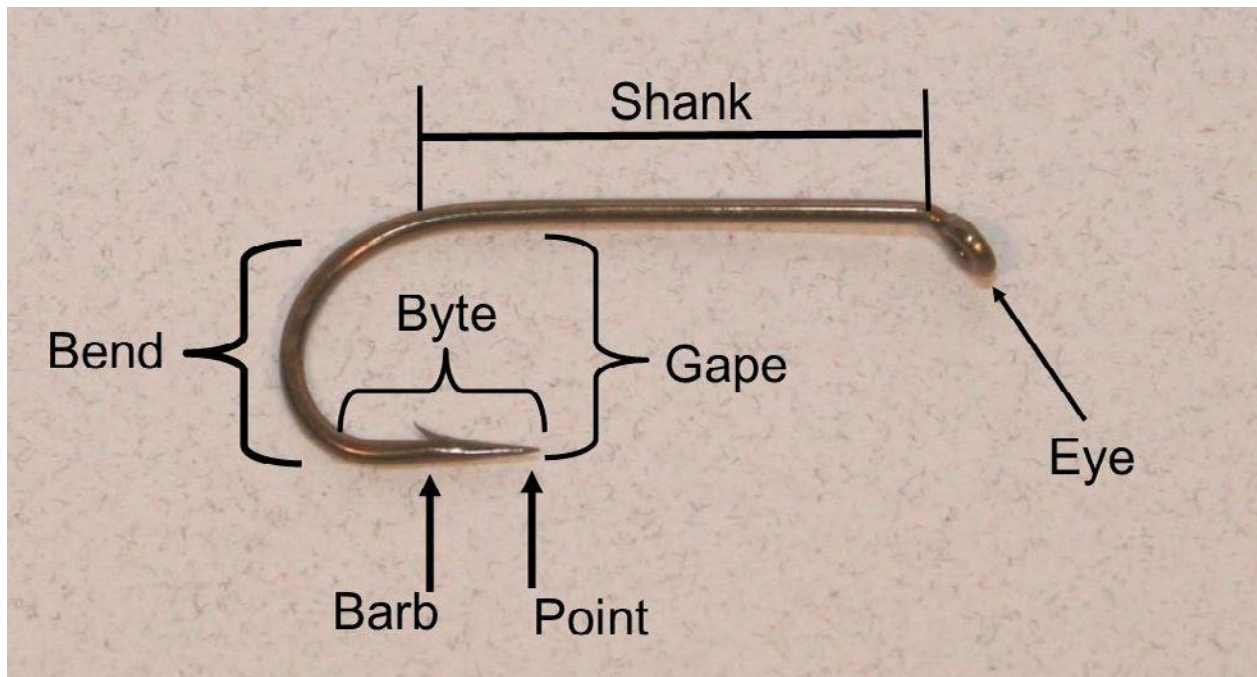




ANATOMY OF A HOOK

The hook is the backbone of the fly you are tying. Think of it as the skeleton of your fly. There are variety of different hooks, but they all have the same anatomy.

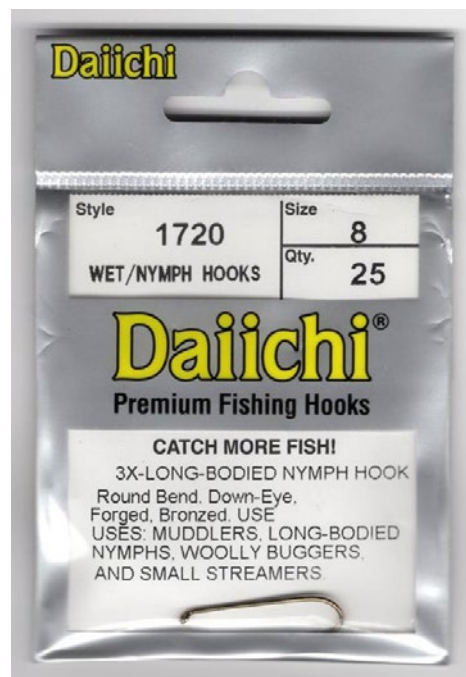
These parts help us explain how to tie the fly:



Hook manufactures have their own model or style number.

Hooks are sized by a number — the lower the number the larger the hook.

“X” is used to indicate the difference in hook shank length.





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Both hooks here are a size 4, but one is a 4X long streamer hook. As you can see, it is longer than the standard dry fly hook.



All of these hooks are a size 4, but each have different shank lengths and even different bends.

Longer shanks are used for longer type of insects or for bait fish imitations.





FLIES

OLIVE WOOLLY BUGGER

The Woolly Buzzer is usually the first fly a beginner learns to tie. It is a simple fly, and you learn many tying techniques, such as how to attach the thread to the hook, which way to wrap the materials, and how to secure the materials to the hook

Just because it is a simple fly doesn't mean it is not an excellent fish catcher. This is one of the most effective flies to use on any fish.

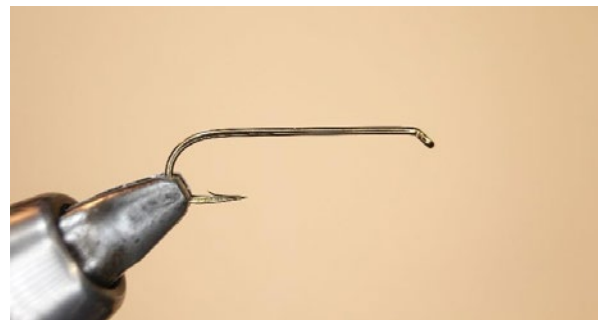


MATERIALS FOR THE OLIVE WOOLLY BUGGER

Hook:	3X Long Body Nymph Hook
Thread:	Olive or Brown 6/0 Thread
Tail:	Olive Marabou
Rib:	Copper Wire
Hackle:	Grizzly Hackle
Body:	Olive Chenille

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example, I am using a 3X long shank hook, size 8. Daiichi model 1720.



2. Attach the thread behind the eye of the hook. Wrap the thread towards the bend of the hook, stopping above the barb. This is where the bend of the hook starts.

Putting a layer of thread on the shank of the hook helps to stop the materials from sliding around the hook shank.





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3. Take a marabou feather and stroke the fibers so all the tips line up.

Measure the feather along the shank of the hook.

This will be the tail of the woolly bugger. The tail is as long as the shank of the hook.



4. Transfer the measured marabou feather to the hand that will secure the tail to the bend of the hook.

With the pinch method, secure the marabou tail to the bend of the hook.

The pinch method is when you hold the material at the spot on the hook and pinch it in place, sliding your thread between your thumb and index finger. Slide the thread along your index finger and pull the thread up tight to lock the material on the shank of the hook. Repeat at least 4 times.



5. Once the tail is secured at the bend of the hook, bring your thread towards the eye to bind all the marabou feather materials to the shank of the hook.

Then bring your thread back to the bend of the hook. Cut the excess material over the eye of the hook.





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6. Pass your thread back towards the eye to bind the ends of the feather that you just cut.

Then, bring the thread back to the bend of the hook to tie in the next material.



7. Take four inches of the Olive Chenille. Pull some of the fibers from the cotton thread to expose the thread.

Secure the chenille by the exposed thread at the bend of the hook.



8. Take four inches of copper wire and tie it at the bend of the hook.

Bring your thread behind about an eye length behind the eye of the hook.





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9. Wrap the chenille with touching wraps. Wrap away from your body, going over the top of the hook and coming towards you under the shank of the hook.



10. Once the chenille is wrapped over the shank of the hook, secure it at one eye length behind the hook.

Hold the chenille upwards and pass your thread behind the chenille, locking it in place with three or four good tight wraps.



11. Cut the excess chenille and put four good wraps to lock it in place.





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12. Take a grizzly hackle and wrap it along the shank to make sure the hackle fibers do not extend far beyond the hook point. Strip some of the fluffy fibers from the grizzly hackle feather and secure it behind the eye of the hook. Trim the excess thread.



13. Wrap the grizzly hackle two times behind the eye of the hook.



14. Wrap the hackle through the chenille body going towards the bend of the hook. Make sure you are wrapping it in nice, even spirals. Usually five turns of hackle through the body is enough.





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15. Secure the hackle at the bend of the hook with two turns of the copper wire at the bend of the hook.



16. Rib the fly with the copper wire in open spirals, crossing over the heckle stems and wiggling the wire so the hackle fibers do not get trapped by the wire.

Usually five or six wraps towards the eye of the hook is enough.



17. Tie off the copper wire behind the eye of the hook. Do not use your scissors to cut the wire. Just wiggle it back and forth so the wire will fatigue. This is called “helicoptering” the wire.





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18. Build a thread head behind the eye of the hook.



19. Use your whipfinish tool or half hitch tool to tie off the fly. Cut the thread.



20. Add head cement to the head and your fly is done.

To see a video on how to tie the Woolly Bugger, go to my YouTube Playlist — Jerry's Fly Tying Tips: <https://youtu.be/u92mfklcvEU>





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GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR NYMPH

The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph (GRHE) is one of the most popular flies. It is easy to tie and catches all types of fish.

The GRHE does not imitate one type of fly but gives a suggestion of many kinds of aquatic immature mayflies. These are called nymphs and live on the water's bottom waiting to mature into a mayfly.



MATERIALS FOR THE GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR NYMPH

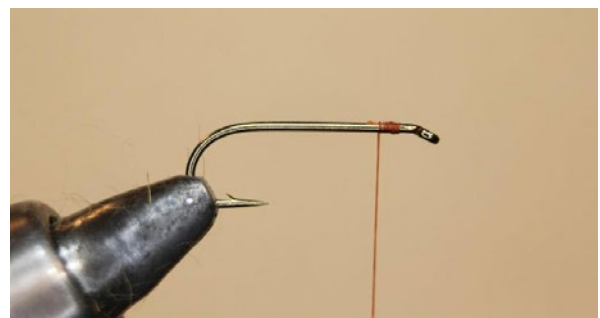
Hook:	1X Long 1X Strong hook such as a Daiichi 1560
Thread:	Brown 6/0
Abdomen:	Guard Hairs from the Hare's Ear Mask from the cheeks
Rib:	Oval Gold Tinsel
Thorax:	Hare's Ear Mask Dubbing fuller than the Abdomen
Wingcase:	Turkey Tail Fibers

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example I am using a size 10 Daiichi 1560 hook.



2. Attach your tying thread at least one eye length behind the eye.





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3. Bring the thread to the bend of the hook. The barb on this hook marks where the bend is located. It is also where the metal starts to bend.



4. Cut the guard hairs from the Hare's Ear Mask to make the tail. Leave some underfur with the guard hairs for the tail.



5. Measure the guard hairs along the shank of the hook. The tail is to be $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the hook. Once measured, transfer the guard hairs to the bend of the hook.





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6. Tie in the tail at the bend of the hook. Use the pinch method to keep the tail on top of the hook shank.



7. Add more wraps of thread to secure the tail in place. Then, trim the fur that is going towards the eye of the hook.



8. Tie in the oval tinsel for the ribbing on the bottom of the shank of the hook and tie it to the bend of the hook.





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9. With the dubbing fur, taken from either the mask of the hare's ear or purchased, make a dubbing noodle. To do this, take a small amount of fur and twist it onto the thread. Use wax if needed to stick the fur to the thread.



10. Twisting the fur in one direction makes the dubbing noodle. Small amounts of fur is the key.



11. Wrap the dubbing noodle on the shank of the hook starting at the bend and wrapping to 2/3 up the shank of the hook.

You will be wrapping away from your body — over the top away from you and under the shank of the hook towards you.





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12. As you wrap, creating the abdomen, you will need to taper the body as you get to the 2/3 point. Keep adding dubbing as needed until the abdomen is finished.



13. We are now at the 2/3 point and the abdomen is complete. As you see, it is tapered towards the eye of the hook.



14. Wrap the abdomen with the oval tinsel to rib the fly.

Make even spaces with the rib going towards the eye — at least four wraps. Each wrap is tied in the opposite direction of the how we wrapped the dubbing material.

Go under the shank of the hook away from your body and over the top of the hook towards your body.





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15. Now that we have four evenly spaced wraps, tie off the oval tinsel and secure the ribbing material in place.



16. Make at least four or five strong wraps to hold the tinsel in place.



17. Take fibers from a turkey tail that is treated with a clear coat so that when we pull the wingcase over the thorax it doesn't split apart. The width should be thicker than the body.

Secure the turkey tail fibers to the hook shank where you left off with your thread. Make sure the fibers are flat and on top.





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18. Turkey tail fibers should also be tied so that the shiny side is facing down and dull side is facing up.



19. Form the thorax. The thorax is thicker than the body and buggier. There are two ways to achieve a buggy appearance. The first is just to dub a larger thorax and pick out the guard hair to form the legs. The second is to make a dubbing loop and insert the guard hairs into the loop and twist. Here, we are going to learn the dubbing loop.



20. Insert the dubbing fur into the loop. This sounds easy, but you will need to be patient. Also a small amount goes far. Some tiers split the thread with a pin. But I think for beginners, this is easier.

You will need some kind of hook tool to hold the dubbing loop. Keep the loop tight to hold the fur between the thread loop.





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21. Once you have filled the loop, it is time to twist the loop to form the dubbing noodle. As you can see, the guard hairs stick out. This will make the thorax fuller and buggier to form the legs of the nymph.



22. Wrap the thorax the same way you did the abdomen. But your first two wraps should go over the wingcase, so when you pull the wingcase over the thorax it won't have a gap between the abdomen and thorax.



23. Wrap the thorax towards the eye of the hook and stroke the guard hairs backwards towards the bend so the legs are in one direction. Make sure you are one eye length back behind the eye to tie off the dubbing loop.





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24. Fold the turkey tail fibers over the thorax to form the wingcase. Cover the thorax on the top.



25. Secure the wingcase behind the eye. Cut the excess turkey fibers.



26. Whipfinish.





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27. Add a drop of head cement to the thread wraps.



28. Completed Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph.

I have created a video to show how to tie the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph: <https://youtu.be/I2j1x8QzB84>





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GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR SOFT TACKLE WET FLY

The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Soft Hackle Wet Fly. This is a deadly fly that has a lot of movement in the water.

It's a simple wet fly that suggests either a wet fly or nymph, sometimes called a flymph.

Built the same way as other soft hackle flies, it can be used as a dropper, or point fly, and even fished dead drift or with drag, as on the swing or lift.



MATERIALS FOR THE GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR SOFT TACKLE WET FLY

Hook:	Standard Wet Fly Hook.
Thread:	Brown 6/0
Tail:	Wood Duck Flank Feathers
Rib:	Oval Gold Tinsel
Body:	Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Mask Dubbing Fur
Hackle:	Brown Partridge Body Feathers

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example, I am using a size 10 Daiichi 1550 hook.

Attach your tying thread at least one eye length behind the eye, and bring your thread to the bend of the hook.



2. Take a few wood duck flank feather fibers for the tail.

Measure the fibers to the hook shank. The tail is as long as the hook shank.





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3. Tie the fibers at the bend of the hook.



4. Tie in the gold oval tinsel under the shank of the hook.



5. Take hare's ear dubbing and create a dubbing noodle.





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6. Start dubbing the body. Taper the body towards the eye of the hook. The body is $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the shank of the hook.



7. The body is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the shank of the hook, tapered from the bend towards the eye.



8. Wrap the oval tinsel, creating at least four equal segment turns. The tinsel goes in the opposite direction of the dubbing. The rib goes under the hook shank away from you, then over the hook shank towards you.





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9. Tie in a partridge body feather by the tip.



10. Wrap the partridge feather three times to form a hackle collar. Tie off the feather.



11. Whipfinish.





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12. Put a drop of head cement on the head.



13. The finished Gold Ribbed Hares Ear Soft Hackle Fly.





DARK CAHILL WET FLY

The Dark Cahill Wet Fly is the in-between stage from the nymph to the dry fly.

This fly can be fished dead drift or on a swing with drag. It can also be fished as a dropper in tandem with either a nymph or dry fly.

It seems wet flies have fallen out of favor, but don't count them out. They are still a great way to catch fish.



MATERIALS FOR THE DARK CAHILL WET FLY

Hook:	Standard Wet Fly Hook such as a Daiichi 1550
Thread:	Brown 6/0
Tail:	Wood Duck Flank Feathers
Body:	Muskrat fur
Hackle:	Brown (prefer hen)
Wing:	Wood Duck Flank Fibers

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example I am using a size 10 Daiichi 1550 hook.

Attach your tying thread at least one eye length behind the eye.



2. Bring the thread to the bend of the hook. The barb on this hook marks where the bend is located. It is also where the metal starts to bend.





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3. Cut a few wood duck flank fibers and measure them to the shank of the hook. The tail will be the length of the shank of the hook.



4. Tie in the wood duck fibers to the bend of the hook.



5. Cut the wood duck fiber butts.



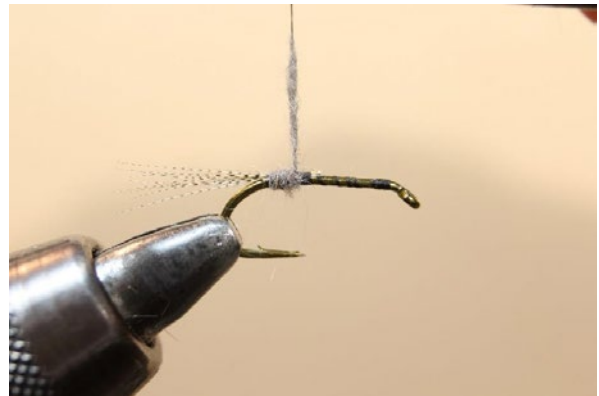


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6. Take a small amount of muskrat fur dubbing. Twist it onto the tread in one direction to form a noodle.



7. Start dubbing the body. This will be a tapered body going towards the eye of the hook.



8. Dub 3/4 of the hook shank to form the body, leaving 1/4 open for the hackle and wing.





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9. Tie in the brown (hen) hackle by the tip.



10. Wrap the hackle three or four times to form a hackle collar. With each wrap, stroke the hackle fibers towards the bend of the hook.



11. Take a few fibers from a wood duck flank feather. Roll the fibers in between your thumb and index finger to form a roll wing.

Measure the wing so that the tips do not extend past the bend of the hook.





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12. Transfer to your tying hand and use the pinch method to secure the wing.



13. Cut the wood duck butts at an angle to help form a nice, triangular head.



14. Build up a thread head. Whipfinish the fly and cut the thread.





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15. With your bodkin, take a drop of head cement and apply it to the head of the fly.



16. Finished Dark Cahill Wet Fly.

To see a video on how to tie the Dark Cahill Wet Fly go to this YouTube Video:
<https://youtu.be/neKXWepnsM8>





DARK CAHILL DRY FLY

The Dark Cahill Dry Fly is a Catskill-style fly that imitates a dark mayfly on the water.

The fly was first tied by Dan Cahill of Port Jervis NY, in a light color to imitate the cream-colored mayflies on the water.

We are tying the dark version of his famous fly.

Catskill flies are tied with a rooster hackle wrapped around the hook to help keep them afloat on the surface. Mostly used in broken water, the hackle helps it from going under.



MATERIALS FOR THE DARK CAHILL DRY FLY

Hook:	Standard Dry Fly Hook such as a Daiichi 1170
Thread:	Brown 6/0
Tail:	Wood Duck Flank Fibers
Body:	Muskrat fur
Hackle:	Brown Rooster Neck Hackle
Wing:	Wood Duck Flank Fibers

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example I am using a size 10 Daiichi 1170 hook.



2. Attach your thread at least one eye length behind the eye of the hook.

Bring your thread at least 1/3 the length of the hook behind the eye. This is where the wing will be tied in on top of the hook shank.





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3. Cut a few wood duck flank fibers and measure them to the shank of the hook. The wing will be the length of the shank of the hook.



4. Tie in the wood duck fibers to the 1/3 length spot. The tips of the wood duck will be extended over the eye of the hook.



5. Cut the wood duck fiber butts at an angle to help create a taper when we use the dubbing fur to create the body.





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6. Once the butts of the wood duck are trimmed at an angle and the wing is secured to the hook, take the tips of the wood duck wing and lift them up to make the wing stand up straight from the hook shank.



7. Once you have the wing fibers pulled back, wrap your thread tight against the base forming what is called a jam knot or a thread dam.



8. With the wing standing upright, wrap the butts of the wing to tie them down and form a nice, tapered body. Then bring your tying thread in front of the wing. We are getting ready to split the wing into two separate wings.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

9. Once you split the wing clump into two separate wings, pass your tying thread through the middle to keep the wings separate. Do this by passing your thread in a figure “8” pattern to make the wings stay separated.



10. This is the desired way the wings will need to look once you figure “8” your thread through the wings.



11. Bring your thread to the bend of the hook.

Take a bunch of hackle fibers from a rooster neck feather.

Measure the fibers so that they are as long as the shank of the hook, then secure them at the bend of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

12. Make a dubbing noodle. Here is where we start dubbing the body.



13. The body is $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the shank of the hook. That is where you will stop.

That space is where we tie in the Rooster Hackle.



14. Tie in the rooster hackle under the shank of the hook.

Take your thread to be in front of the wing, securing the stem of the hackle.

Cut the hackle stem.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

15. With your hackle pliers, wrap the hackle three times behind the wing and three times in front of the wing.

Tie off the hackle and cut the tip of the hackle off.



16. Whipfinish and cut your thread. Add head cement and you will be done.



17. The finished Dark Cahill Dry Fly.

To see the video on how to tie the Dark Cahill Dry Fly go to this YouTube Video:
<https://youtu.be/2ZraHfmK3Mc>





BLACK NOSE DACE BUCKTAIL STREAMER

In 1947, Art Flick, an accomplished and innovative fly tyer from the Catskill region of NY, published his best known book, *Art Flick's Streamside Guide*. This is where the Black Nose Dace Bucktail Stream was first introduced. Art invented the Black Nose Dace Bucktail Streamer to imitate the dace and chubs that lived in the stream. Today this is one of the most popular flies to catch trout and bass with.

The Black Nose Dace is a simple fly to learn how to tie — one of the tricks is to keep it sparse. This fly will teach you how to work with bucktail and tinsel and is tied on a streamer hook, which is 5X to 7X long in sizes 4 through 12.

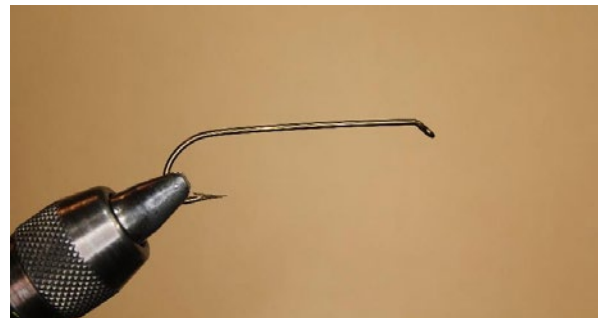


MATERIALS FOR THE BLACK NOSE DACE BUCKTAIL STREAMER

- Hook:** 5X to 7X long shank Hook sizes 4 through 12
- Thread:** Black 6/0 or 70 Denier
- Tail:** Red Yarn
- Body:** Silver Mylar Tinsel
- Wing:** Brown over Black over White Bucktail

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example I am using a 7X long shank hook with a limerick bend, size 4.



2. Attach your tying thread to the hook. Start an eye-length behind the eye.

Wrap your thread to the bend of the hook and back to where you started.

This will cover the shank of the hook with a thread base to help keep materials from sliding around the hook shank.

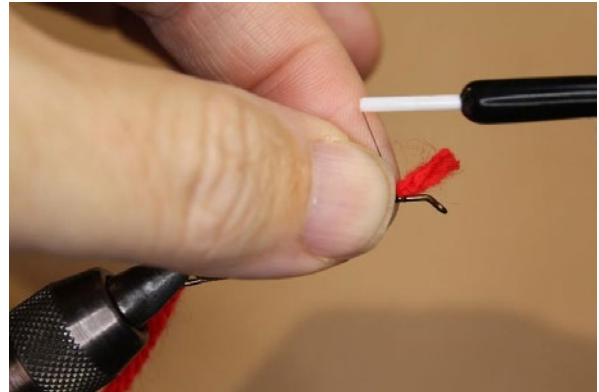




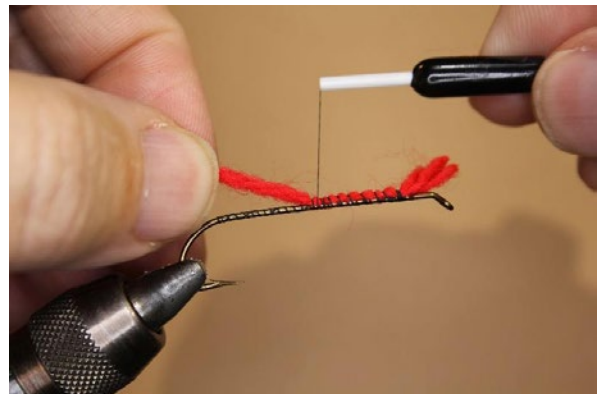
FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

3. Cut a piece of red yarn for the tail that will extend past the bend of the hook when secured behind the eye of the hook.

Secure the red yarn at least three or four eye lengths behind the eye. This is to leave room for the wing and head of the Bucktail Streamer.



4. Secure the red yarn to the top of the hook shank, holding the end of the yarn tight above the hook shank. This will give the body a nice, even look when the silver mylar tinsel is tied on for the body.



5. Secure the red yarn at the bend of the hook. The bend is in line with the barb of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

6. Bring your tying thread to where you secured the red yarn behind the eye.

Cut the red yarn that is extended over the eye of the hook. Trim it close to the body.



7. Trim the red yarn at the bend of the hook to make the tail of the Black Nose Dace. The tail length will be the width of the gap of the hook.



8. We are now ready to tie in the silver mylar tinsel for the body. I am using a medium width tinsel that is gold on one side and silver on the other.

Take a long piece of tinsel, and tie it with the gold side facing you. I am using around six inches for a size 4 hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

9. Wrap the tinsel. Each wrap is goes over the top of the fly clockwise, and comes under the shank of the hook towards you. This will keep the gold side towards the inside of the body.

Each wrap should touch the previous wrap as you go towards the bend of the hook.



10. Once at the bend of the hook, wrap the tinsel back towards the eye and end at your starting point. This will help cover areas where the underbody shows through.



11. Bring the tinsel to the starting point, at least three eye lengths behind the eye to make room for the wing. Tie off the tinsel and cut it.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

12. Select the white bucktail for the streamer wing. You do not need a large amount.



13. It is difficult to explain how much to cut, but the amount is sparse. If I had to use a measurement, the thickness would be $\frac{1}{2}$ the thickness of a bodkin. Or at least two to three matchsticks thick.

Cut the bucktail near the tail hide. Clean out any short hairs.



14. Stack the bucktail to try to even the tips of the hair.

Place the tips of the bucktail into the funnel of your hair stacker. The tips are the fine ends of the hair. The butts of the bucktail are where you have cut the hair off the tail.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

15. Once the hair is in the hair stacker, hit the bottom of the hair stacker on the table, holding the funnel piece with your index finger. This will line up the tips of the bucktail.



16. Turn the hair stacker horizontal, and remove the base from the funnel. The tips of the bucktail are even.

Grab the bucktail by the tips and get ready to attach the wing to the fly.



17. Measure the white bucktail to the shank of the hook. The tips of the white bucktail should extend to the tip of the tail, which is a gap length past the bend of the hook.

Secure the white bucktail one eye length behind the eye of the hook using the pinch method.

Be careful not to spin the hair around the shank of the hook. This has to be attached on top of the hook shank.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

18. Make several wraps to hold the bucktail in place. All wraps should use the pinch method and keep the bucktail from slipping around the hook shank.



19. Trim the butt ends of the white bucktail at an angle. Use the slant of the down eye for the angle.



20. Repeat steps 12 through 16 for the black bucktail.

Then attach the black bucktail on top of the white bucktail right behind where you left off with the white bucktail.

Make sure you use the pinch method to attach the black bucktail. This is the lateral line of the minnow.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

21. Make several wraps to hold the bucktail in place. All wraps should use the pinch method and keep the bucktail from slipping around the hook shank. As you can see, you now have two layers of bucktail. The tips do not extend past the tail.



22. Trim the butt ends of the black bucktail at an angle. Use the slant of the down eye for the angle.



23. Tie in a few more wraps to secure the black bucktail wing and prepare the brown bucktail as in steps 12 through 16.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

24. Secure the brown bucktail on top of the black bucktail using the same method as we did for the white and black bucktail.



25. Build the black nose for the Black Nose Dace. Wrap black tying thread to form the head of the fly. The foundation of cutting the bucktails butts at an angle help to form a nice wedge shape head.



26. Whipfinish or use half hitch knots to finish the fly.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

27. Add head cement to the head using a bodkin tool. Or, use Solarez Bone Dry UV Resin. Both work great to secure the head from the teeth of the fish.



28. The finished Black Nose Dace.





OTHER BUCKTAIL STREAMERS TO TRY



MATERIALS FOR THE MICKEY FINN BUCKTAIL STREAMER

- Hook:** 5X - 7X Streamer Hook Sizes 4 -12
Thread: Black 6/0 70 Denier
Rib: Oval Silver Tinsel
Body: Silver Mylar Tinsel
Wing: Yellow over Red over Yellow Bucktail



MATERIALS FOR THE LITTLE RAINBOW TROUT BUCKTAIL STREAMER

- Hook:** 5X - 7X Streamer Hook Sizes 4 — 12
Thread: White 6/0 70 Denier
Rib: Silver Mylar Tinsel
Tail: Bright Green Bucktail
Body: Pinkish White Dubbing
Throat: Pink Bucktail
Wing: White bucktail under pink bucktail (slightly blended) under green bucktail under Grey Squirrel.



ELK HAIR CADDIS DRY FLY

The Elk Hair Caddis was developed by Pennsylvania native Al Troth.

This is the most popular dry fly and floats like a cork while imitating a caddis fly that is skittering all over the stream.

The elk hair and hackle keep this fly afloat.

Change the body color for the caddis or stonefly adult you are imitating.

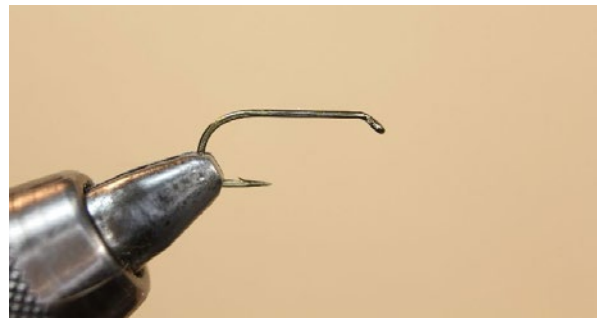


MATERIALS FOR THE ELK HAIR CADDIS DRY FLY

Hook:	Standard Dry Fly Hook such as a Daiichi 1170
Thread:	Brown 6/0
Rib:	Fine Gold Wire
Body:	Hare's Ear Mask Dubbing
Hackle:	Brown Rooster Neck Hackle
Wing:	Elk Hair

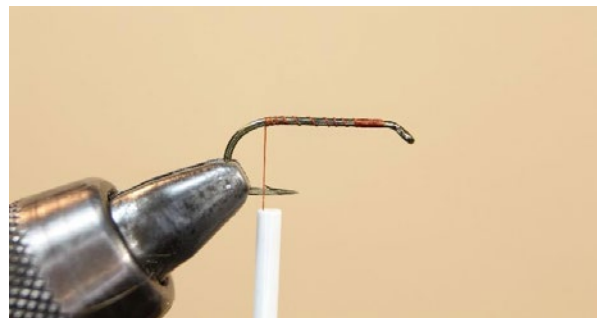
1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example, I am using a size 10 Daiichi 1170 hook.



2. Attach your thread at least one eye length behind the eye of the hook.

Bring your thread to the bend of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

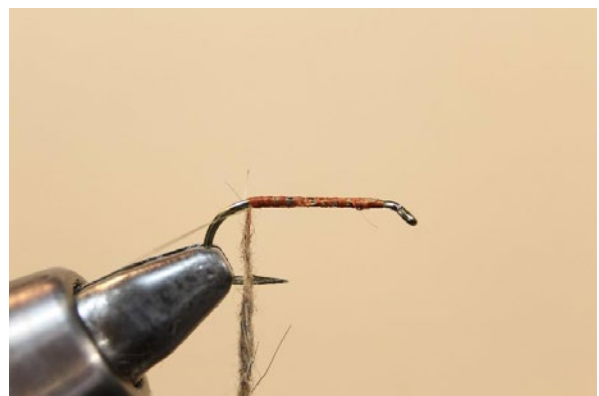
3. Tie in the gold wire under the shank of the hook at the bend.



4. Make a dubbing noodle. Small amounts work best when dubbing the fur to the thread. Twist in one direction.



5. Once the dubbing noodle is made, dub the body at the bend of the hook. Wrap over the shank of the hook away from you then under the shank towards you.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

6. The body is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook shank, and tapers from thick to thin as you go towards the eye — a reverse tapered body.



7. Tie in the rooster hackle. Remove any soft fibers from the lower stem. Tie under the shank of the hook where you ended the body.



8. Palmer wrap the hackle through the body towards the bend of the hook. Make sure you leave nice, even spacing as you wrap towards the bend of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

9. Hold the hackle with hackle plyers and wrap the gold wire two times around the hackle tip.



10. You can now release your hackle pleyer and then cut the hackle. The gold wire will hold the hackle in place at the bend of the hook.



11. Rib the wire through the hackle, securing the hackle with the wire. This will make a very durable fly.

Just wiggle the wire between the hackle fibers.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

12. Once the wire is brought forward, tie it off with your thread and wiggle the wire until it breaks free.



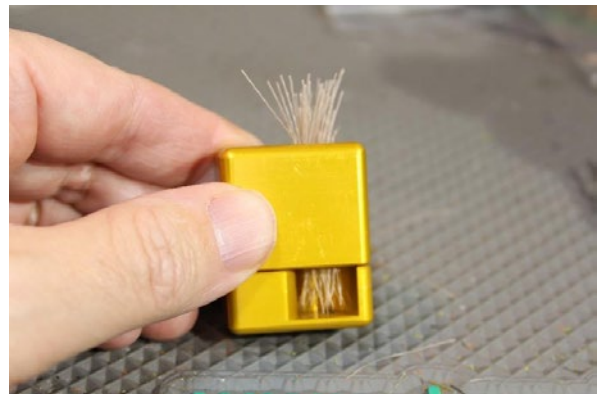
13. Time to get a few elk hair fibers for the wing. Not much is needed — only about the thickness of your bodkin.

Cut the hair from the hide at the base. Comb through the butts to take the under fur out of the hair.



14. Place the elk hair in a hair stacker tips first. We are stacking the hair to line up the tips of the elk hair.

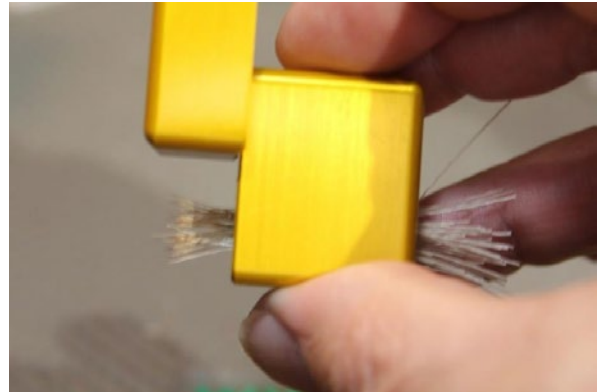
You can see how the tips line up in this hair stacker.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

15. Bring the hair stacker with the hair to the fly. You can see how well the tips are lined up.



16. Take the elk hair out of the stacker and line it up on top of the hook.



17. Measure the elk hair to the shank of the hook. The tips should not pass the bend of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

- Using the pinch method, hold the hair on top of the hook shank. With your tying thread, secure the elk hair in place. Make sure you do not let the hair spin around the shank of the hook.



- Take 1/3 of the butts of the elk hair and pass your thread through them.

Take another 1/3 and do the same.

Then take the last 1/3 and tie your thread in front of the hair and behind the eye of the hook.



- The butts of the elk hair should be standing up and your tying thread should be behind the eye.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

21. Cut the elk hair butts to form the head of the Elk Hair Caddis.



22. Form a head behind the eye.



23. Whipfinish, then cut your thread and put a drop of head cement on the head.



24. Finished Elk Hair Caddis Dry Fly.

To see a video on how to tie the Elk Hair Caddis go to the YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bz96gMWYO10>





FOAM BEETLE

The Foam Beetle is an imitation of a beetle, such as a lady bug or an aquatic beetle. During the summer months terrestrial insects are blown into the water and trapped, becoming an easy target for many fish. The color of the foam can be any color you like. The indicator helps you see the fly on the water.



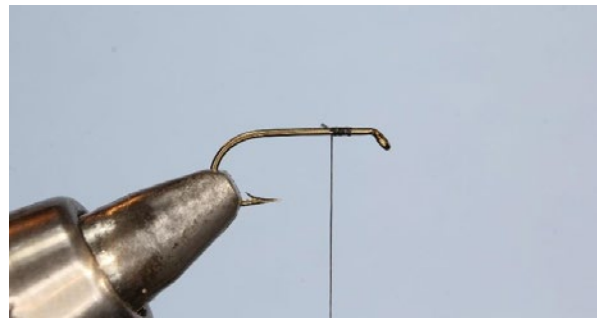
MATERIALS FOR THE FOAM BEETLE

Hook:	Standard Dry Fly Hook such as a Daiichi 1170
Thread:	Black 6/0
Over Body:	2 mm foam (Black for this pattern)
Body:	Peacock Herl
Indicator Post:	Any bright color yarn
Legs:	Rubber round legs

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example I am using a size 12 Daiichi 1170 hook.

Attach your thread at least one eye length behind the eye.



2. Cut a piece of black foam about 1/8 of an inch thick.

Tie the foam on the top of the hook shank.

Secure the foam at the bend of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

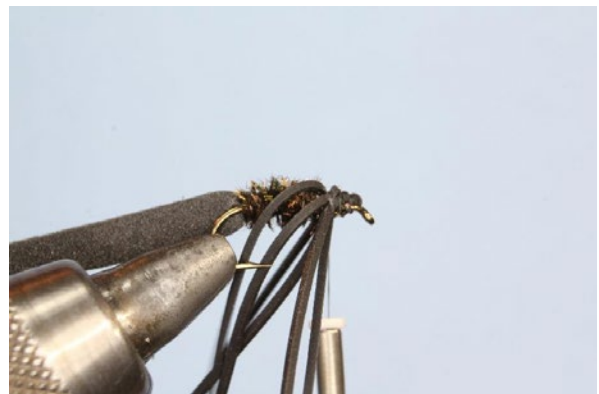
3. Tie in three strands of peacock herl for the body.



4. Make a rope of the peacock herl by twisting the herl together. Then wrap the herl forward, forming the body.



5. Tie in three strands of rubber round legs — three strands on the near side and three strands on the far side.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

6. Cut the legs to size.

Pull the foam over the body to form the beetle shell.



7. Tie in a bright color post for the indicator.



8. Whipfinish and cut your thread.



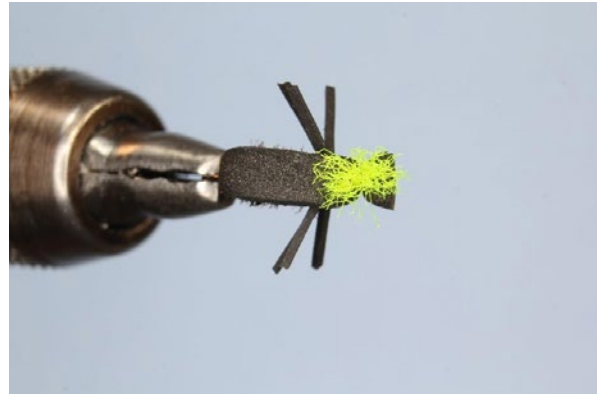


FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

9. Bottom view.



10. Top view.





JOE'S HOPPER

Joe's Hopper was popularized by Joe Brooks. This fly was used to imitate grasshoppers that fell into the stream. Joe Brooks also would tie a tandem fly from the hook, such as a pheasant tail nymph.

This fly is simple to tie, because like other hopper patterns, it doesn't require spinning deer hair.



MATERIALS FOR JOE'S HOPPER

Hook:	2XL hook such as a Daiichi 1280 sizes from 6 to 12
Thread:	Yellow 6/0
Tail:	Red hackle fibers
Body:	Yellow Yarn with a brown hackle palmer through the body
Hackle:	Brown and Grizzly mixed.
Wing:	Turkey Wing or Tail quill strips

1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise, making sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

For this example I am using a size 10 Daiichi 1280 hook.

Tie your thread on the hook shank.



2. Bring your thread to the bend of the hook.

Tie in a few red hackle fibers at the bend of the hook. The tail should be half the hook shank.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

3. Tie in yellow yarn at the bend of the hook. Form a loop at the bend to extend past the bend of the hook.



4. Tie in a brown hackle at the bend of the hook.



5. Wrap the yellow yarn to 3/4 of the hook shank and tie off the yarn.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

6. Palmer wrap the brown hackle through the body. End when the body stops.



7. Trim the hackle close to the body on the sides of the hook.



8. Tie in the wing slips on both sides of the hook. The tips of the wing slips should extend to the middle of the tail.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

9. Tie in the grizzly and brown hackle — about one size larger than the hook gap.



10. Wrap the brown and grizzly hackle and whipfinish.





DAVE'S HOPPER — TERRESTRIAL PATTERN

Dave's Hopper is a grasshopper imitation. When summer is in full swing, these insects find themselves falling into the water and becoming food for fish.

This pattern floats high on the water because the deer hair is hollow and packed in a dense spun head that keeps the fly floating for a long time.

Once you master spinning deer hair, you will find that it really is easy. Just practice and this will be second nature.



MATERIALS FOR DAVE'S HOPPER

Hook:	3XL Hook such as a Daiichi 1720 (Sizes 6 to 10)
Thread:	White or Grey 3/0
Tail:	Red Bucktail
Body:	Yellow Yarn
Hackle:	Brown Hackle Palmer ribbed through the body
Collar:	Deer Hair Tips
Head:	Spun Deer Hair
Optional	
Legs:	Pheasant Tail knotted

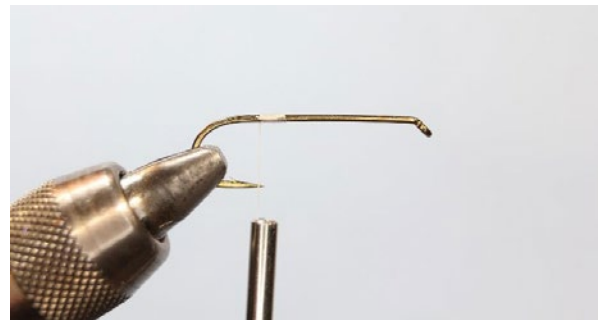
1. Secure the hook in your fly tying vise making, sure the shank of the hook is level with your table.

Since we are spinning deer hair for the head of the hopper, let's secure our thread near the bend of the hook, leaving the rest of the hook shank bare to make spinning the deer hair easier.

For this example, I am using a size 6 Daiichi 1720 hook.

2. From a red bucktail, take a few hairs and stack the tips.

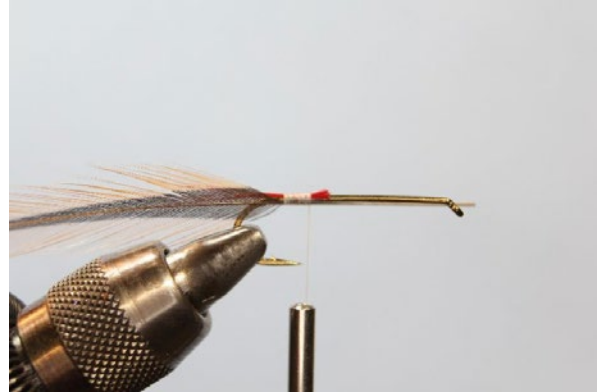
Tie the stack of bucktail at the bend of the hook. The tips should extend past the bend of the hook only one hook gap length.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

3. Tie in a brown hackle at the bend of the hook. Don't worry about the size, because the hackle fibers will be trimmed to shape.



4. Tie in one strand of yellow yarn at least 1/3 of the shank distance from the eye of the hook. Or 2/3 the distance from bend of the hook.



5. Tie in a loop of yellow yarn at the bend of the hook.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

6. Wrap the yellow yarn to form the body.



7. Palmer rib the hackle through the body with open equal spacing wraps.



8. Trim the top hackle fibers close to the body.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

9. Trim the bottom hackle fibers to line up with the hook point.



10. Take a strip of turkey tail fibers, prepare it with a Flex cement or head cement. The strip should be wider than the body.

Tie the overwing where the body ends towards the eye of the hook. The tip of the turkey tail should extend past the bend of the hook.



11. Top view of the turkey tail over wing.

Cut the end of the turkey tail to extend past the bend of the hook. Do not extend past the yellow loop tail.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

12. This step is completely optional. If you have legs, tie them in on the sides.



13. Tie in the collar of deer hair tips. Cut a small bunch of deer hair and clean the butt ends with a small comb (mustache or hair comb).

Stack the tips of the deer hair. Hold the stack above the fly and line up the tip ends so the tips will not extend past the bend of the hook when they are secured to the shank.



14. Two to three loose wraps around the deer hair bunch.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

15. As you pull the thread, keep wrapping it around the shank of the hook, chasing the hair to lock it in.



16. Take a piece of lead-free wire and bind the tips of the deer hair down, because the next step is spinning more deer hair for the head. When you trim the deer hair to shape, the wire will hold the tips out of the way so you don't cut them off.



17. Pack the hair. Pull the butts of the deer hair away from the eye of the hook. Place one thumb and index finger behind the butt stacks and the other thumb and index finger in front of the stack and compress the deer hair fibers.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

18. Cut another bunch of deer hair (small thickness). Clean the butt section with a comb and cut the tips off. They are not needed for the spinning of the deer hair head.

Make three loose wraps around the bunch of cut deer hair.



19. As you pull the thread, follow it around the shank of the hook, chasing the thread around the deer hair until it stops spinning. Make sure you are tightening your thread as you wrap and spin the deer hair.



20. Pack the deer hair. Compress the stack from both ends, front and back with your thumbs and index fingers.

When you compress the deer hair you will see that you have more space to fill.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

21. Repeat Steps 18, 19 and 20 until the space for the head is filled. Leave space between the eye of the hook and the deer hair (one eye length).



22. Whipfinish. The tying part is done. Next will be the trimming of the head.



23. Start trimming the deer hair and start to shape the head like a triangle. The base of the triangle is at the eye while the point of the triangle is at the body.

Trim the bottom flat.

Once done trimming the head, unwrap the wire so the collar stands out.



24. Finished Dave's Hopper.





FLY TYING: BEGINNER FLY TYING MANUAL

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This is a beginner's fly tying manual for use by our Fly Fishers International Council, Clubs, and Members. This is no way to replace any Council/Club's existing Fly Tying Classes, but this manual is meant to help those that need a start in how to teach a fly tying class without having to reinvent the process.

Each fly teaches a different fly tying technique and builds upon the previous fly. All or parts of this Beginner Fly Tying Manual can be used for teaching and can be modify based on the Council/Club's needs.

Any questions or comments may be sent to ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.

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Award Recipient*

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