

Fly of the Month – The F/C Crackleback Dry-Wooley Emerger by Tarponbob Korose and Ed Story.

The Crackleback was created in 1952 by Ed Story of Feather-Craft Fly Shop in St. Louis. Many consider it the best trout fly ever and it still is as popular as it ever has been. It can be fished as a dry fly and a wet fly (emerger) all on the same cast when there is a hatch going off. It can also be fished deep by using a split shot 10 inches above the fly or by tying the original fly with a bead head. It is famous as a trout and grayling fly but is also a great fly for bream, bass, and others. It works in lakes as well as rivers and streams. When fishing downstream during an emergence the strikes can be so hard that the fish can pop the tippet so make sure you tie extras. The good news is that it is a very easy fly to tie. It can be tied in various colors and sizes depending on what is hatching and the waters you are fishing. A variation of this fly called a “Firecracker” that Matt Wegener ties uses brightly colored materials like red thread, orange sparkle braid, and a yellow grizzly hackle and is an attractor fly. At times it is more effective than the original Crackleback.

Tying Materials Hook:

1. Mustad (or other) dry fly hooks Sizes 10-18.
2. Thread: Size 3/0, - 8/0 (depending on hook size)
3. Olive or Black Hackle: Saddle hackle (Furnace ginger or brown)
4. Crackleback: Two strands of peacock-herl
5. Body: 1–8-inch section (5-7 fibers) of a turkey-round feather Color pale morning dun or pale olive Note: Colors will differ based on emergers matching

Tying Instructions

1. Wrap a thread base then tie in the saddle hackle at the end of the hook shank.
2. Tie in the peacock herls at the end of the hook shank.
3. Tie in the turkey rounds (body material) at the end of the hook shank. Then wrap the thread forward to behind the hook eye.
4. Wrap the turkey rounds forward to the thread and tie down.
5. Pull the two peacock herls forward on the top of the fly to the thread and tie down.
6. Wrap the hackle forward in 5 equally spaced wraps to the thread and tie down.
7. Whip finish a nice head and cover with head cement or UV.

A tying video can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7lk17SjK9w>