

Tying Trout Flies - Where Do I Start?.... Jerry Aldridge

The hardest part of starting to tie trout flies is picking the flies to tie. There are literally thousands upon thousands of different flies, many touted with words such as "the only fly you will ever need" or "the silver bullet has finally arrived" or some such nonsense. There is no perfect fly but there are some that have been proven to catch trout consistently under a wide variety of conditions. So I too, will come up with a short list. These work for me and others and will serve you well as a good starting point. The flies are not listed in order of preference.



1. **Crackleback.** Size 12. Does not look like any insect in particular. Easy to tie. Fish as a dry fly without drag, skittered with small strips or dragged under the water and retrieved as a wet fly or streamer.

2. **Parachute Adams.** Sizes 12-18. Dry fly that suggests many mayfly duns and spinners. Was my "go to" dry until I discovered the crackleback. Now it's a toss-up.



3. **Elk Hair Caddis.** Sizes 12-18. Dry fly that resembles many of the common caddis, especially when tied in a variety of body colors. Tan or olive work well.

4. **Griffith's Gnat.** Sizes 16-18 (and smaller, too). Dry fly that resembles a cluster of midges (tiny fly-like insects).



5. **Bead Head Pheasant Tail Nymph.** Sizes 12-18. Resembles many mayfly nymphs, especially olives. As with most nymphs, fished with drag-free drift along stream bottom. A very good general "attractor", this is my "go to" nymph.

6. **Bead Head Hare's Ear Nymph.** Sizes 12-18. Resembles some mayfly nymph, probably some caddis larva and pupa and even looks a bit like a scud or sowbug. This may be the most popular general attractor nymph. I tie it in gray or olive.



7. **Whitlock's Fox Squirrel Nymph.** Sizes 12-18. Another very good general attractor. May even suggest a small crawdad with its cinnamon body.

8. **Bead Head Woolly Buzzer.** Size 8 or 12. Generally fished as a streamer but may be fished dead drift as a nymph. Looks like any number of underwater critters (leeches, crawdads, stoneflies, hellgrammites, minnows). I tie most often in black or olive but other colors are effective, too.



9. **Ant.** Sizes 12-18. I tie foam or parachute dry flies and thread bodied wet flies in black, brown or red. You would be surprised how many ants end up in the stream as trout food. Trout love them.

10. **Beetle.** Sizes 12-18. I tie as foam dry flies, black or brown. Trout like them just as much as ants.



Trout Flies - How Do I Start?... Jerry Aldridge (continued)



11. **Grasshopper.** Size 8 or 12. Tied in many styles. Foam bodied and parachute are shown. Fished as dry fly but often banged near the bank with gusto the way a real hopper might land. Often attacked with serious harmful intent.

Material list. The materials required to tie our flies is listed below. No tools are listed (perhaps a separate topic?). Substitute materials are sometimes used to keep costs down. For example, black thread is used instead of olive in the olive wooly bugger and partridge feather fibers are used for the tail of the Hare's Ear nymph instead of guard hairs from the face or ears of a hare. You can certainly

use the original materials if you want to spend a little more.

The total material cost is about \$170. Costs were taken from the catalogue of a single supplier. Other suppliers might be cheaper on individual items. The two most expensive items on the list are hooks and hackle. Nine boxes of 50 hooks, roughly \$5 per box are included, four boxes of dry fly hooks (Mustad 94840, sizes 12-18) and five boxes of nymph/streamer hooks (Mustad 9671, sizes 8 and 12-16). Each hook costs about a nickel. The hackle is a Whiting, bronze grade combination cape (actually, half a grizzly cape and half a brown one) priced at \$49. The two half capes will tie about 500 flies so hackle for each fly costs about a dime. Metz has a similar quality combo priced at \$45.

1. Hooks, Mustad 9671 nymph, sizes 8 and 12-18, 5 boxes of 50 at \$5.25 per box, \$26.25.
2. Hooks, Mustad 94840 dry fly, sizes 12-18, 4 boxes of 50 at \$4.95 per box, \$19.80.
3. Hackle, Whiting rooster combo-cape, grizzly/brown, bronze grade, \$49.
4. Thread, Danville Flymaster 6/0, black, dark brown, beige, \$1.25 per 200 yard spool, \$3.75.
5. Dubbing, SLF Whitlock, redfox squirrel thorax and abdomen, \$2.50 per pack, \$5
6. Dubbing, Hare's Ear Plus, natural, dark natural, olive, red brown, \$1.50 per pack, \$6.
7. Dubbing, Antron, golden tan, medium olive, \$0.85 per pack, \$1.70.
8. Dubbing, Superfine, Adams gray, black, \$1.25 per pack, \$2.50.
9. Beads, Spirit River Brite, gold, 3/32, 1/8, 5/32, 3/16, \$2.25 per 25 pack, \$9.
10. Squirrel tail, red fox natural, \$1.95.
11. Wire, Wapsi Ultra, copper and gold, sizes brassie and small, 4 spools at \$1.25, \$5.
12. Lead wire, .015, spool, \$2.25.
13. Ringneck pheasant tail, whole, \$3.75.
14. Peacock herl, small package, \$1.50.
15. Hungarian partridge feathers, loose, package, \$1.50.
16. Chenille, ultra medium, dark olive, black, \$1 per pack, \$2.
17. Marabou, Hareline bloods, black, dark olive, \$1.50 per 1/8 oz. pack, \$3.
18. Neck hackle, black, sculpin olive, \$1.85 per 1/4 oz. pack, \$3.70.
19. Turkey biot quills, Hareline, pale morning dun color, \$1.95.
20. Krystal flash, black, pearl, \$3.50 per pack, \$7.
21. Yarn, polypropylene, white, tan, \$0.85 per pack, \$1.70.
22. Elk hair, select light, \$1.95.
23. Foam, Hareline 2mm, black, brown, tan, \$1.75 per pack, \$5.25.
24. Rubber legs, round medium, yellow, black, brown, \$1.65 per pack, \$4.95.

Total Material Cost = \$170.45

A fly box or two filled with these flies, a few of each size and color listed will catch trout on any stream I have ever fished. You cannot match every hatch with these but it's a helluva start!

The Crackleback

Original Recipe by Ed Story

Hook: Dry fly size 12, Mustad 94840 or equivalent
Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0
Body: Pale morning dun turkey biot
Shellback: 3 strands of peacock herl
Hackle: Dark furnace



1. Place hook in vise and lay thread base from eye to bend. Select a size 12 hackle and tie in at the bend with the hackle's dark side facing toward you. Measure the hackle with a gauge or gape of the hook (barb length 1 1/2 times gape width).

2. Place 3 strands of peacock herl on top hook shank with at least an inch extending rearward from the hook. Tie in the herl along the full length of the shank leaving a little room for the head of the fly. Return tying thread to bend. Cut 5 or so biots from the quill and tie in by the points along the full length of the shank starting at the bend. Bring tying thread forward to just behind hook eye.



3. Wrap the biots forward in firm, slightly overlapping turns to form the body of the fly. Tie the biots in just behind the eye and trim the excess. Some tyers like to use hackle pliers to wrap the biots; others prefer to wrap with one hand and use the other to keep the biots from unraveling. Apply a light coat of head cement to the biot body. Cracklebacks so treated have been known to last through more than two dozen fish.

4. Bring the peacock herl forward along the top of shank and tie in just behind the eye. Palmer the hackle forward with 5 or 6 turns and tie in behind the eye. Trim the excess, cover neatly with thread, whip finish the head and coat lightly with head cement.



Parachute Adams

Hook: Any dry fly hook, size 8 - 20
Thread: Black or gray (6/0 to 12/0)
Tail: Grizzly and brown hackle
Abdomen: Superfine (or any gray dubbing)
Wing: White Antron or white calf hair
Hackle: One grizzly and one brown



Note: Crystal Flash shown in pics - not used in this recipe



1. Debarb hook. Mount hook in vise. Tie on thread behind eye and wrap thread base back the barb. Form a "thread bump" by wrapping half a dozen turns over the barb. Select 4-5 barbels of stiff grizzly and brown hackle. Tie in over barb to form tail slightly shorter than the length of the hook shank. The barbels should "fan out" slightly because of thread bump.



2. Bring thread forward to point 1/3 shank length back from eye. Cut 1" length of Antron yarn. Place the yarn on top of and parallel to hook at tie-in point. Place 6-7 firm wraps at the center point of the yarn. Pull the ends of yarn straight up above shank. Place 6-12 horizontal wraps around base of yarn to form the "parachute wing." Wrap about 1/8" high.



3. Bring thread to rear tie-in point. Dub a tapered abdomen from the tail of the body to just in front of the wing post. Select and prepare (enough barbels stripped to form a bare stem to the top of the post thread base) one grizzly and one brown hackle. Tie them in at 45 degree angle between post and hook eye. Continue wrapping thread back toward post and then around post and the hackle stem to top of the thread base. Work the thread back down and complete the dubbing in front of and behind wing post to form a thorax. Leave the thread wrapped around the base of the post.



4. Wrap the two hackles together, 3-4 turns (clockwise) from the top of thread base to the bottom, each turn below the previous one. Tie off the hackle around the base of the post with several wraps. Either whip fishing around the post base at the bottom of the hackle, or add a drop of super-glue to the base and add another wrap or two. Trim the post wing to about the same length as hook shank.

Elk Hair Caddis

Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is the standard imitation for the caddis fly. It can be tied with or without a hackle or wire rib. When fished in riffles and runs of freestone streams or rivers the use of a hackle helps the fly "stand" on the water and helps prevent the fly from being swamped. When fished on smoother waters, omitting the hackle will allow the fly to sit lower in the water yet the fly still floats well. A rib wire adds durability to the fly, especially to the fragile hackle quill which is subject to being cut by the fishes teeth. With or without the hackle and rib wire, Al's Elk Hair Caddis catches trout (and pan fish) amazingly well. The Elk Hair Caddis is normally tied in sizes 18-12.

Hook: Mustad 94840, size 12-18
Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 tan
Rib: Fine gold wire
Body: Tan Super Fine dry fly dubbing
Hackle: Ginger rooster saddle
Wing: Light elk hair



1. Debarb the hook and secure it in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread on the hook one hook eye length back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns lay down a thread base back to a point directly above the hook barb. Cut a 4-inch length of fine gold wire from the spool and tie it to the top of the hook directly above the hook spear with tight thread wraps.



2. Dub a body that is somewhat thick at the back and tapers to a point two hook eye lengths back from the hook eye. Do not crowd the hook eye.



3. Select an appropriate size hackle, one with barb lengths just a bit longer than the hook gap. Strip away the fuzzy fibers from the base of the hackle quill. Tie the stripped part of the quill in front of and adjacent to the tapered body. Cut away the excess stripped quill.



4. Palmer the hackle in about six to eight evenly spaced turns to the back of the body. Capture the last turn of hackle under two tight turns of the rib wire.



5. Cut away the excess hackle behind the capture wire and wrap the wire forward through the body hackle in about five or six evenly spaced turns to the hook eye. Tie off the rib wire with several tight thread wraps and cut away the excess wire.



6. *Note: With experience you will be able to determine how much hair or fur to cut from hides for various size flies. When cutting hair or fur from any hide, always cut right down to the hide. When hair or fur is cut from above the hide, the hide quickly becomes hard to work with and much waste will occur. Cut to the skin and keep your hide ship-shape.*

Cut a fair amount of elk hair from the hide. Remove the fuzz, or under hair, from the cut hair and align the tips in a hair stacker. Measure the hair wing (minus the hair butts) the length of the hook. The back of the wing should stand up above the end of the hook and extend a bit beyond the hook bend. Pinch the hair between the thumb and forefinger of your off hand at the wing/butt division point. Hold the hair against the top of the hook in the space between the front of the body and hook eye. While pinching the hair to pre-vent it from migrating too far down the sides or under the hook, take several tight thread wraps round the hair and hook between your fingers and the hook eye. Continue to pinch the hair and finish tying the wing to the top of the hook with tight thread wraps beginning just behind the hook eye and working back onto the wing forming a distinct segmentation between the wing and hair butts. Lift the hair butts and make three or four half hitch or whip finish thread wraps behind the hook eye and under the hair butts. Cut away the thread.



7. Gather the hair butts between the thumb and forefinger of your off hand, pull the hair tight, and cut it straight across and even with the front of the hook eye to form the head. Apply a small amount of head cement to the half hitch/whip finish thread wraps and to the head/wing segmenta-tion thread wraps.

Griffith's Gnat...by Tom Regina

Hook	Mustad 94840 or other standard dry fly hook size 16 - 24.
Thread	8/0 black.
Hackle	Grizzly.
Body	Peacock herl.



1. Crush the hook barb and fix the hook in the vise.



Using a jam knot, start the thread about two hook eye distance behind the hook eye. In touching turns wind the thread back to the hook bend. Select a high quality grizzly hackle with barbs the length of one to one and a half times the hook gap. Strip the webby fibers from the base of the feather stem. At the hook bend, tie the hackle in on top of the hook with the concave side of the feather up. (*Tying the feather in with the concave side up will cause the feather barbs to slant forward when the hackle is wrapped*). Wrap the thread forward in close turns to the thread tie in point. Spiral wrap the thread back to the hook bend.

2. Select two or three peacock herls. Break off an inch or two of the fragile tips. At the hook bend, tie in the herl by the *new* tips.



3. Twist the herls and wrap them forward in touching turns to the thread tie in point. Tie off the herls and cut away the excess.



4. In close, but not touching, turns wrap the hackle forward to the thread tie in point. Tie off the feather and cut away the excess. Form a neat thread head, whip finish, cut away the thread and cement the head.



The Griffith's Gnat dry fly may well be the all time best midge pattern. It can represent an emerging midge, a small midge cluster, an egg-laying or a spent midge. When the hackle is trimmed short it becomes a suggestive nymph or pupa pattern. The Griffith's Gnat should be dressed lightly with floatant before fishing it. Because the fly may be hard for the angler to see, especially in smaller sizes, it is often fished as a dropper off a larger more visible dry fly or with a small yarn indicator three to five feet up the leader from the Griffith's Gnat.

The Griffith's Gnat is quick and easy to tie. The tools needed are: vise, bobbin, bodkin, scissors and a whip finish tool. An electrical test lead clip is also handy for twisting the body material.



Adding a white wing of CDC (cul de cunard or duck butt feather) to the Griffith's Gnat makes it easier for the angler to see the fly and as Doc Birdwell says "the fish don't care".



TYING THE PHEASANT TAIL NYMPH:

RECIPE:

Hook	Tiemco 5262 Nymph - 2XL or 3XL Size 12-20
Bead	Gold or Brass (optional) proportional to the hook size selected
Thread	6/0 or 8/0 black or brown
Tail	Pheasant tail cock feather fibers
Body	Pheasant tail cock fibers
Thorax	Peacock herl
Rib	Thin gold wire
Wing Case	Pheasant tail cock feather fibers

- 1) Select desired hook and crimp the barb before inserting into the vise. [If using a bead, now would be the time to place it (small end first) onto the hook, moving it forward so that it butts up tightly to the eye of the hook. Secure the bead in place using several wraps of thread immediately behind the bead and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook.]
- 2) Thread wrap the hook from behind the eye back to the beginning of the hook bend.
- 3) Cut 5-7 fibers at the base near the stem of a cock feather. Even the tips and tie the butt end down at the bend using two light turns, then pinch wrap to secure and cut the remaining butt end off at the thread line. The resulting tail should be about 2/3rds the length of the hook shaft.
- 4) Tie in a 2½-3" section of ribbing at the base of the tail.
- 5) Now cut a 1/8" to 3/16" wide strip of fibers from the cock feather. Even the tips and tie in the tips at the butt end of the tail shiny side up. Now wrap the feather fibers forward and away from you until you are 2/3rds the way up the shank and secure the feathers to the shank. Cut off any remaining excess.
- 6) Advance the rib forward 3-5 turns wrapping toward you in the opposite direction you advanced the cock fibers leaving a proportional space between each wrap and secure at the spot where you left the bobbin hanging on the previous step.
- 7) Cut another section of fibers approximately 1/8" to 3/13" wide at the base of the stem. Even the tips. Laying the tips forward and not where on the butt section of the feathers you will need to tie in the fibers (at the cut-off point of the ribbing), so that when tied in the tips will extend past the hook eye about ¼ to 3/8". Tie in the fibers shiny side down.
- 8) Now just in front of the pheasant tail wing case, secure 2-4 strands of peacock herl at the point where the ribbing and the wing case meet. Wrap forward to 1/8" to 1/4" behind the hook eye or up to the bead if a bead was used and secure with tightened thread wraps.
- 9) Pull the wing case forward splitting the feather tips of the wing case evenly on opposing sides of the hook shank in a downward direction and secure. Finish off the head (again if no bead is used) and either secure the head with half hitches or a whip finish. Apply lacquer to seal and further secure the head. If a bead utilized, secure with 3 half-hitch knots or a whip finish knot just behind the bead and apply a thin coating of lacquer to the thread to secure and seal.

TYING THE HARE'S EAR NYMPH:



Materials:

- Hook:** Tiemco 5262 Nymph - 2XL or 3XL in sizes 10-16
Bead: Gold or brass sized to the hook
Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0
Weight: Lead-free wire in 0.20
Tail: Hare's mask guard hairs
Body: Rabbit dubbing (under fur)
Thorax: Rabbit dubbing dark (under fur)
Rib: Gold oval, gold flat tinsel or gold wire
Wing Case: Mottled turkey feather



Tying Steps:

- 1) Select desired hook and crimp the barb before inserting into the vise. If using a bead, now would be the time to place it (small end first) onto the hook, moving it forward so that it butts up tightly to the eye of the hook. Secure the bead in place using several wraps of thread immediately behind the bead and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook.
- 2) Wrap 4 turns of non-lead or lead wire in the center of the shank. Working from the bend forward, wrap the hook with a layer of thread creating a tapered ramp behind the lead then wrapping over the lead and finally tapering a ramp in front of the lead to the eye. Work the thread back to the bend and tie in the guard hair tips for the tail so that they protrude about 1/3 the length of the shaft beyond the bend, cutting the excess at the base of the tie in.
- 3) Tie in a 2½-3" section of ribbing at the base of the tail.
- 4) Apply dubbing wax and twist on a thin layer of dubbing to the thread. Now wrap the dubbing forward to the front end of the lead section and allow the bobbin and thread to hang.
- 5) Advance the rib forward 3-5 turns wrapping toward you in the opposite direction you advanced the dubbing leaving a proportional space between each wrap and secure at the spot where you left the bobbin hanging.
- 6) Separate about 1/8" of mottled turkey feather barbs (that have had fixative cement previously applied) and tie in cup side up, cutting the base section close to the tie in.
- 7) Apply additional wax to the line. Using dark under fur from the hare's mask, lightly twist the hair onto the thread and wrap the dubbing forward to either 1/8" shy of the eye, leaving enough room to taper off and build a head of thread, or up to the bead if a bead was used. Secure to the hook and leave the bobbin hanging at this point.
- 8) Pull the wing case forward and secure 1/8" back from the hook eye (or just behind the bead). With no bead utilized, finish off the tapered head and secure with 3 half-hitch knots or a whip finish knot. If a bead is used, secure the thread with half-hitch knots or a whip finish. Apply head cement to the fly head (or at the base of the bead head) using a bodkin or toothpick and allow the cement to dry.

Whitlock's Red Fox Squirrel Nymph.... Terry McCormick

Whitlock's Red Fox Squirrel Nymph is one of my favored flies for hooking both cold and warm water fish. I have used this attractor nymph with great success on the cold water rivers and streams of Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to take rainbow, brown, and brook trout. On local warm water ponds and lakes the Whitlock's Red Fox Squirrel Nymph has drawn many pan fish and bass to put a bend in my fishing stick. I tie this fly in a variety of configurations. With or without legs, bead head or thread head, rib or no rib, some with a collar, some without, a piece of flash representing a split wing case, or no flash, and so on. I tie it in sizes 16 through 8 and they all work well for me.

Materials

Hook	Mustad 9671, 2XL, size 12, wet nymph.
Head	1/8" gold bead.
Thread	Gudebrod 6/0 brown BCS 98
Tail	Natural red fox squirrel tail fibers.
Shuck	Translucent Mylar tinsel.
Rib	Copper wire.
Abdomen	Whitlock Red Fox Squirrel Nymph Abdomen Dubbing.
Legs	Pumpkin Sili Legs with green or black flake.
Thorax	Whitlock Red Fox Squirrel Nymph Thorax Dubbing.
Collar	Brown partridge hackle feather.



Tying Instructions

1. Debarb the hook and slide a bead onto the hook up to the hook eye. Place the hook in the vise. Lay down a thread base from the back of the bead to the hook bend.
2. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of fibers from the squirrel tail. Tie the fibers on top of the hook at the hook bend to form the nymph tail which should be about equal in length to the hook shank. At a shallow angle cut away the nymph tail butts and tie them down with forward thread wraps. Return the thread to the hook bend.
3. At the hook bend and on top of the hook tie in the Mylar tinsel so it extends back over the tail a length equal to the tail. Tie down the tinsel butt with thread wraps. Return the thread to the hook bend. At the hook bend tie in the rib wire. Return the thread to the hook bend.
4. Use the abdomen dubbing to dub a buggy tapered abdomen forward to just past the halfway point on the hook shank. In about 4 or 5 evenly spaced turns, wrap the rib wire forward to the front of the abdomen. Tie off the wire and cut away the wire tag end.
5. In the space between the front of the abdomen and the bead, but closer to the abdomen, tie in a pair of legs to each side of the hook shank. (*Note: Trim legs to desired length after the fly is completed*).
6. Use the thorax dubbing to dub a buggy thorax with one or two dubbing wraps behind the rear legs, several wraps between the rear and front legs and a wrap or two in front of the front legs.
7. In back of the bead tie in a partridge hackle feather. Take 2 or 3 turns of hackle to form the collar. Whip finish or half hitch the thread in back of the bead. Cut away the thread. Cement the tie off thread wraps being careful not to apply cement to the collar fibers.

TYING THE VERSATILE WOOLLY BUGGER FLY:



RECIPE:

Hook	Straight Shank Size 2-10 3XL-4XL
Bead	Gold or Brass (optional) proportional to the hook size selected
Thread	6/0 Select color to match body
Weight	Lead Wire or Unleaded Wire .20
Tail	Marabou (Black, Olive, Brown or other color of choice) Optional: 2-3 strands Krystal Flash (pearl, silver or blue added to each side of tail
Body	Medium Chenille 9Black, Olive, Brown or other Color of Choice
Hackle	Saddle hackle – black, olive, grizzly

- 1) Select desired hook and crimp the barb before inserting into the vise. If using a bead, now would be the time to place it (small end first) onto the hook, moving it forward so that it butts up tightly to the eye of the hook. Secure the bead in place using several wraps of thread immediately behind the bead and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook. Cut a 2-3" length of lead or tin wire and wrap forward in tight coils along the shank starting just above the point of the hook and stopping about ¼ of the shank from the eye of the hook.
- 2) Working from back to front beginning at the bend and working forward wrap the hook with a layer of thread, wrapping at the base of the lead and over the lead, building a slight ramp of thread at the front end of the lead to the eye and working backwards to the end of the lead.
- 3) Leave the bobbin hanging at the bend. Select two marabou feathers and position them together, cup side in. Using the length of the shaft as a guide, cut the butt ends of the marabou to about the length of the shaft. Holding the marabou feathers between the thumb and index finger hold the feathers to the top of the hook, just behind the lead wrap. Make two to three loose wraps and then pinch and cinch the next 3-4 wraps pulling the thread down as you maintain tension on the feathers. Optional: At this point you can elect to tie two to three strands of Krystal Flash for added visual effect in the water. Holding 2-3 strands on one side of the hook secure the flash with two-3 tight thread wraps and pull the end of the extending flash to the opposing side and holding the strands in the desired position. Wrap 3-6 or more times around both sides. This will secure the flash. Cut the ends of the flash on both sides of the tail just shy of the marabou tips.
- 4) Cut a 3-4" section of chenille and pull away the chenille fibers from approximately 3/16" of one end of the chenille exposing the braided core of the chenille. Tie in the exposed end of the chenille, at the base of the marabou.
- 5) Now tie in the tip of a saddle hackle just in front of the chenille. Push the secured saddle hackle to the side and wrap the chenille forward to about 1/8-1/4 the length of the shaft from the hook and secure the end of the chenille using bobbin and thread. This will leave enough space to finish off the head.
- 6) Using your fingers, wrap the hackle forward making certain to pull the hackle bars back as you wrap forward. Position each turn so that the hackle falls snugly between each adjoining wrap of chenille. If no bead is used, as you come to the end of the chenille, wrap the hackle two to three times tightly together to form a collar. Finish off the head by wrapping the thread tapering it to just behind the eye of the hook and securing it with 3 half-hitch knots or a whip finish knot. Apply head cement to the head of the fly using a bodkin or a toothpick and allow to dry.

Ants.... Tom Regina

Ants in the river make mighty fine fish food. They end up in the water in one of two ways. Wingless ants tend to appear randomly when they fall onto the water. This is generally a sporadic occurrence, but at times you may find them in high numbers when they get blown off streamside vegetation on warm, windy, spring, summer, and fall days. Watch for fish feeding regularly underneath trees, bushes, and grasses over-hanging the water, they may be feeding on ants. Wingless ants are usually very small, size 18 to 22, and are usually black or cinnamon in color. Wingless ants are frequently found on the water surface close to and along the shore.

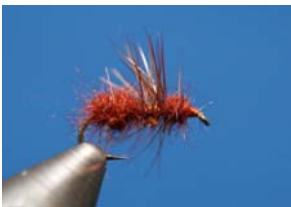
More often we find a lot of ants on the water when a swarm of winged ants have been blown onto the water or their wings have fallen off as intended by nature. Winged ants typically range in size from 14 to 16 and are usually black or brown in color. Winged ants will typically be found on the water from shore to shore.

Your terrestrial fly box need not be packed full of ant patterns. You can limit your ant imitations to just a few patterns. Carry two or three pattern styles for both winged and wingless ants. Carry each style in just one or two colors and in a narrow range of sizes.

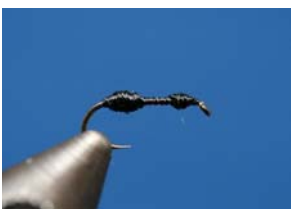
Black or Cinnamon Fur Ant:



Secure a size 18 or smaller dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a thread base of the appropriate color 8/0 thread from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Using the appropriate color dry fly dubbing, dub a relatively large abdomen on the rear one-third of the hook. Take the thread forward to the front one-third of the hook and dub a relatively small head. Take the thread back to the middle one-third of the hook. Select and prepare the appropriate color and size rooster saddle hackle and tie it in by the butt onto the middle third of the hook between the dubbed abdomen and head. Take three or four turns of hackle around the middle third of the hook for the ant's legs. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle. Tie off and cut away the thread. If necessary, pick out the dubbing to give the ant a "buggy" appearance and to help it float well.



UV Cure Ant:



Secure a size 18 or smaller dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a thread base of 8/0 black thread from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Over the rear one-third of the hook build up a relatively large underbody thread bump abdomen. Take the thread forward to the front one-third of the hook and build up a relatively small underbody thread bump head. Whip finish or half hitch and cut away the thread. Using a bodkin, apply a relatively large amount of UV cure to the rear under-body thread bump. You can control the application of the UV cure with your bodkin and by rotating the fly in the vise. When you have acquired the proper abdomen shape, shine the UV light onto the UV cure for about 20 seconds to cure it. Apply a relatively small amount of UV cure to the head thread bump in the same manner as for the abdomen. Tie the thread back onto the middle one-third of the ant between the abdomen and the head. Select and prepare a black appropriate size rooster saddle hackle. Tie the feather onto the middle of the hook by its butt. Make three or four turns of hackle around the middle of the hook to represent the ant's legs. Tie off the hackle and cut away the excess. Tie off and cut away the thread. This ant imitation floats well and especially so when dressed with fly floatant.





Winged Foam Ant:

Secure a size 14 or 16 dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a thread base of 6/0 black thread from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Over the rear half of the hook shank, tie a 3/16 x 1 inch strip of black 2mm foam by it's tip to the top of the hook so the long end extends over the back of the hook. Take the thread to the middle of the hook shank and fold the foam strip forward to create a relatively large humped abdomen on top of the hook. Tie the foam strip down over about the middle one-third of the hook shank to form a segmented area between the abdomen and where the head will be formed. Take the thread forward under the foam that will now be extending over the hook eye. Pull the foam forward and parallel to the top of the hook shank and tie it down close to the hook eye to form a relatively small humped head on top of the hook. Cut away the excess foam close to the tie down thread wraps and cover the foam tag end with a few thread wraps. Take the thread under the hook shank and back to the segment between the abdomen and the head. Select and prepare an appropriate size black rooster hackle. Tie the hackle



feather in by it's butt over the segment area of the ant. Make three or four turns of hackle around the segment section. Tie off and cut away the excess feather. Prepare a set or pair of wings from very thin white foam of the type used for packaging electronic equipment, or other suitable fly wing material. The finished wing length should be about equal to the length of the hook shank and each wing of the pair should be about as wide as the wide end of a flat toothpick and about the same shape. Tie the wings on top of the hook between the back of the head and the hackle. The wings should flare out to the sides slightly. Tie off the wings and cut away the tag ends. Tie off the thread and cut it away. If the wings stand too erect cut some hackle out from under them.

High-Viz Ant:

Secure a size 14 or 16 dry fly hook in the vise and lay down a 6/0 black thread base from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Return the thread forward to a point back from the hook eye that is equal to one-third the hook shank length. At this thread hang point tie on a High-Viz foam ant body to the top of the hook. Tie the body on so it overhangs the back of the hook and the white tip is above the hook eye. Make enough thread wraps over the body to create a distinct segment between the abdomen and the head. Select and prepare a proper size black rooster saddle hackle. Tie the hackle feather in by it's butt over the segment section. Make three or four wraps of hackle over the segment area to represent the ant's legs. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle. Take the thread under the hook shank and under the white tipped head. Half hitch or whip finish and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of head cement to the tie off thread wraps. Trim the back of the body so it is even with the very back of the hook. *Note: Rainy's High-Viz Ant Bodies can be obtained through most fly tying materials catalogs.*



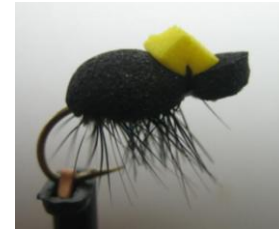
SIMPLE, YET PRODUCTIVE FOAM BEETLES:



PATTEN TYPE: Terrestrial

RECIPE:

Hook	Tiemco #5262 Size 12-14
Thread	70-Denier Ultra Thread black or color to match foam
Underbody	Natural Peacock Herl
Body	2mm closed cell foam
Legs	Rubber or saddle hackle
Top Indicator	Bright 2mL closed cell foam, or egg yarn



TYING STEPS:

- 1) Crimp the hook barb and position the hook within the vise.
- 2) Wrap the thread beginning about a hook eye length back from the front of the hook to a point about $\frac{1}{4}$ the length down the hook shaft.
- 3) Cut strips of foam about $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and about $\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of the hook.
- 4) Remove a narrow, tapered section of each side of the foam strip and anchor the strip down against the hook behind the hook eye. Holding the foam down on top of the shank, wrap the thread tightly up and back down the shank to the bend, compressing the foam as you go, stopping at the hook bend. Secure the foam at this point with two to three tight wraps.
- 5) Snip the brittle tips of 3-4 strands of Peacock herl and tie them in at the bend, carefully wrapping them forward to a point just behind the hook eye. Be careful as you wrap not to snap or cut the herl on the hook point as you wrap forward.
- 6) At this point you can select and tie in a saddle hackle whose webby fibers have been removed from the stem, or you can opt to tie in rubber legs. Using the former, using a hackle plier, clip the tip and wrap the fibers forward leaving some space between each wrap and tying the hackle off about a hook eye length back from the hook eye. If using the latter (rubber legs), position the 3 equal length strands over the back of the shank and anchor in the legs with figure eight ties.
- 7) Now firmly grasp and pull the foam protruding out over the back of the hook back over the top of the hook shank to a point just behind the eye and secure it with 3-5 tight wraps. Snip the foam that is hanging over the hook eye such that it slightly covers the hook eye lying on top of the eye. This will form the head. You can slightly round the square head by snipping small sections of the foam to further fashion and create the rounded outline of the head.
- 8) Now directly on top tie in a bright contrasting colored foam cut out that you create by using a hole punch on a 2mm sheet of foam. Position a single one of these brightly colored cut outs on top of the crease separating the body and the head and wrapping the thread over the top of the colored foam dot, pulling it snug into the fold or crease and secure it with a whip finish.
- 9) Now, if you used saddle hackle to create your legs, flip the fly upside down and trim the hackle flush to the lower section of the abdomen leaving the remaining hackle fiber hanging out each side. Now trim the side hackles to a length resembling legs. If you used rubber legs simply trim them to the desired, but uniform length.
- 10) As a final step, from the underside of the hook, apply head cement to the bottom of the thread wraps that delineate the head from the body, being careful not to get head cement on the Peacock herl. You're ready to fish!

Parachute Hopper... Tom Regina

Grasshoppers become lively and fly around fields and meadows on warm summer and early fall days. Populations of adult, winged hoppers peak in August and September and become especially active on days with a warm dry wind.

Grasshoppers are poor fliers and windy conditions can blow them onto the water where they become a big meal for trout. The wind will also blow them from streamside vegetation onto the water. Most hoppers that end up on the water will land along and close to the stream edge and tumble along in the water close to the shore. Cutbanks and overhanging stream vegetation provide trout with shade from the sun and protection from overhead predators. Add the element of food and cutbanks and overhanging vegetation areas become prime feeding lays and ambush points for trout seeking a big meal of hoppers.

To fish a hopper along and close to a stream bank cast the hopper imitation close to the bank and "splat" it down softly. Or cast onto the bank then pull the fly onto the water with a natural soft splat. In either case dead drift the fly along with the current while imparting some "kicking and swimming" action to the fly to mimic the action of a real hopper and to attract the trout. Hoppers that get blown onto the water farther from shore will usually kick toward shore. On small streams hoppers will be blown onto the middle of the stream with some regularity. Cast to mid stream and retrieve the fly with a series of two or three very short, one or two inch, jerky strips. Rest the fly for a few seconds and repeat the jerk strip. Keep in mind however, the vast majority of hoppers on the water will be close to shore and this is where trout will be holding for them.

Tying Materials

Hook	Mustad R52S, dry fly, 2XL
Thread	6/0 tan
Wing Post	Gray Polypropylene Yarn
Body	Burnt orange Antron Yarn
Wing	Mottled turkey feather section sprayed with Krylon
Workable	Fixatif (can be purchased from art supply stores).
Legs	Rainy's Knotted Hopper Legs
Hackle	Grizzly rooster saddle feather



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and fix it in the vise. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base over the hook shank from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. In a few spiral turns return the thread forward to a point one-third the hook shank length back from the hook eye thus establishing the front thread hang point. Cut a two inch length of Polypropylene Yarn from the skein. Split the piece of yarn in half lengthwise. At the front thread hang point use several figure eight

thread wraps to tie one half of the split wing-post yarn perpendicular to and on top of the hook. Stand the wing post up by taking 10 to 15 tight thread wraps up the post about 3/16-inch then back down to the base of the post. Cut about a 5-inch length of body yarn from the skein. Tie the body yarn onto the top of the hook about 1/16-inch back from the wing post. Bind the yarn to the top of the hook with several spiral thread wraps to a point directly above the hook barb. Return the thread to the space between the body yarn tie-on point and the back of the wing post.

Parachute Hopper... Tom Regina (continued)



2. In neat touching turns wrap the body yarn forward to the base of the wing post and tie it off but do not cut away the yarn tag end as it will be used to build the head of the fly. Cut a barb section one hook gap wide from a turkey feather that has been treated with Fixatif. Fold the feather section in half lengthwise. Round the thicker or back end of the feather section by cutting away the corners. Measure the feather section to equal the length of the hook. Cut away the excess feather from the front of the wing... not from the end you rounded. With the feather section folded in half lengthwise tie it in on top of the hook between the front of the body and the back of the wing post. The sides of the wing should extend over the sides of the body.



3. Over the wing tie-on thread wraps, tie in one knotted leg to the far side of the body. Repeat the process on the near side for the second leg. While tying in the legs manipulate them so the knot or leg "joint" of each leg extends slightly above the wing and the front and rear leg sections form about a 45 degree angle to the wing. The legs should also flare out slightly to help hold the fly upright on the water. Place a small amount of head cement over the leg/wing tie-in thread wraps and allow it to dry before proceeding.



4. Select and prepare a rooster hackle feather with barbs equal in length to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hook gaps. Tie the feather on behind the hook eye and in front of the wing post, by its bare stem section. The inside, or concave side, of the feather should be either facing up or toward you at this time. Lift the feather up so the bare stem is touching the wing post. Wrap the thread around both the thread post and the bare stem up to the top of the post then back down to the base of the post, thus binding the stem to the wing post.

Make an "anchor" thread wrap around the hook in back of and adjacent to the wing post. At this point there should be about 1/8-inch of bare hackle stem exposed above the thread post. Make the first turn of hackle at the top edge of the thread post in a counterclockwise direction. Make successive turns of hackle directly under and butting up against preceding hackle wraps for a total of about 6 to 8 wraps or to the base of the wing post. Pull the hackle feather down on the near side of the hook and in back of the post. Pick up the thread bobbin and make two or three counterclockwise thread wraps around the base of the wing post trapping and securing the feather to the post. Pull the thread forward and up on the near side of the hook directly behind the hook eye. Cut away the excess hackle feather. Hold the hackle feather barbs in front of the wing post up and out of the way and continue to wrap the body yarn forward to just short of the hook eye to form the hoppers head. Tie-off the "body" yarn and cut away the excess. Build a neat thread head. Whip finish the thread head two or three times. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of cement to the thread head. Trim the wing post to desired length.