

**Fly of the Month**

*By Mike Ott*

**Ralph Cutter's E/H Caddis**

Caddis are one of the dominant bugs in most rivers, and make for great fishing for several reasons; They are generally found in "reasonable" sizes (14-18s), are relatively predictable and reliable, and tend to come off in pretty good numbers. Best of all, trout love caddis and a good caddis hatch seems to bring up every fish in the river. I found this pattern in one of the numerous fly fishing catalogs that arrive in my mail box every spring and then it was featured in the May/June issue of American Angler magazine. This pattern combines the best of an Elk Hair Caddis, the best of an X-Caddis, and the best of a Parachute Caddis. What's not to like?



Hook: Standard Dry Fly Hook #14-18

Thread: 8/0 – 12/0 Brown

Tail/Shuck: Ginger Z-lon

Body: Cinnamon Superfine Dubbing

Thorax: Caddis Green Superfine Dubbing

Wing: Light Elk Hair

Hackle: Grizzly or Dun Hackle

- 1) Secure hook in vise. Start thread about 1/3 hook shank from hook eye and wrap to hook bend.
- 2) Tie in a bunch of ginger Z-lon about the diameter of the hook wire and extending back about ½ the length of the hook shank.
- 3) Dub a uniform body of cinnamon dubbin about 2/3 the hook shank
- 4) Dub a short thorax of the caddis green dubbing.
- 5) Tie in the base of the hackle behind the hook eye and tie back to the end of the thorax.
- 6) Neatly stack a compact bunch of elk hair and tie in just as you would for an Elk Hair Caddis.
- 7) Pull the hair bases up and make several wraps of thread behind the hook eye making the hair ends stand up from the hook shank. Trim neatly leaving a short section of the butts.
- 8) Make two or three wraps of hackle around the base of the wing and trimmed butts to form a parachute-style hackle.
- 9) Tie hackle off behind the hook eye and trim. Whip Finish and trim thread.

Treat the wing and hackle with floatant but avoid treating the body. This fly should sit flush on the water or even hang with the body and tail in the surface. This fly is best fished dead drift as an adult or an emerger, but another wrap or two of hackle and it will skitter on the surface. Experiment with other colors as well... Olive, Black, and Grey.