

Fly of the Month

Bob Zagar

Dave's Hopper

Our fly this month was sent to me by Marty King. It was originally published in our newsletter in 1977 with the recipe and tying instructions provided by Caesar P. Carnaghi.

I am going to present the information here as it was originally written by Mr. Carnaghi in 1977. Available materials have probably changed somewhat since 1977, if so; maybe the recipe could be updated for a future article.



"DAVE WHITLOCK'S - DAVE'S HOPPER"

Hook: Size 4 thru 12 TDE 2X long

Thread: Brown Herb Howard's (prewaxed 710)

Tail: Natural light brown deer hair dyed reddish orange

Body: Yellow orlon wool and brown hackle

Wing: Mottled brown turkey quill section and golden yellow deer hair

Hackle: Natural grey brown northern deer hair lightly tinted golden brown

Head: Clipped grey brown deer hair, tinted light golden brown

Legs: Optional - Turkey Quill

Tying Instructions

1. Attach tying thread and wrap back 2/3 of hook shank. Attach bunch of reddish orange deer hair 2/3 of shank over thread wraps. Allow tips of hair to form tail 1/2 length of hook. Attach wool and brown hackle at bead of hook.
2. Form a small loop with wool beyond hook bend just over tail hairs, then wrap wool on shank length toward hook eye and tie down.
3. Next wrap hackle reverse palmer over wool and tie off at same spot. Trim hackle fibers so that they are about the length of hook gape.
4. Place a bunch of yellow deer hair along top of body and tie down without flaring it. Tips should extend just past hook bend. Coat tie down with head cement.
5. Take turkey quill section which has been sprayed with clear lacquer and trim to hopper wing shape. Attach over deer hair tie down so that section lies parallel with deer hair and body extends 1/3 length of hook past bend.
6. Take a bunch of natural grey brown deer hair and attach and carefully flare it with thread just in front of wings and body tie down area. Push deer hair up snug against this base. Add another bunch of deer hair in front of first muddler minnow style. Whip finish head at hook eye.

7. Trim carefully to form hopper's head while leaving flared tips of first bunch of deer hair form hackle collar or legs. Varnish head thread and turkey quill with 2 coats of very thin varnish.

This fly was submitted to us by Bill Munn, RT.1 Box 148, Bridgeport, Texas, at the October 1977 Midwest FFF Conclave. He is a member of the Dallas Fly-Fishers and at the conclave he tied this fly for several members of our club, including myself. I have a copy of this fly sticking in my hat. Bill Munn has made some additions and refinements to this pattern, over a period of time that he has been tying this fly.

I will endeavor to mention some of them. Bill Munn is definite about tying this pattern in stages, so that you may tie a quantity of these in a minimum amount of time.

First stage: is to tie to and through drawing (step) #3 on the pattern sheet. A number of patterns should be tied through this stage and set aside.

Second stage: is to tie to, and through drawing (step) # 5 on the pattern sheet, and a refinement at this stage, is that legs, an option, can be put on and included as part of stage #2, and are put on right where the thread is, at drawing #5. To complete stage #2 everything is varnished to toughen the tied material for future stages and completion.

The legs are made of a turkey quill section as noted at #5A, but not trimmed. The quill is rolled, about the size of a match stick and it is knotted with a regular knot, to resemble the joint in the leg of a grasshopper. It should look like drawing #5 on pattern sheet. Be sure that this quill is sprayed with a clear lacquer to keep it from splitting.

Third stage: is taking all patterns previously tied through stage 2, and adding to these, tying instruction #6, and adding to this instruction; another refinement, which is: Take lacquer which has been cut by thinner to a consistency of water, and apply a drop or two to the muddler styled head of deer fibers, and are set aside. This stiffens the fibers for the final process.

Fourth stage is to take all flies and use tying instruction #7. Another refinement to this is; instead of trimming with a scissors, you use a razor blade to trim the heads, very slick. Using a razor blade is by far, the quickest way to trim heads after they have been stiffened by the application of water consistency lacquer.

Out in Texas Bill Munn states that this pattern is used for bass and bluegill in various sizes. Out West, during the hopper season this pattern in various sizes is near disrespectful to the fish gentry.

They are so real you have to tie them on your leader hiding behind a tree or rock; anything will take it.

The material; to get ready this may take some time to get together, which is one reason to submit at this time of year. Also, not indicated in the pattern sheet is that the body hair of a deer will work a lot better, which is a lot finer than some of the coarser parts of the deer.

Caesar P. Carnaghi

Hope you enjoyed and thanks for the tip Marty.