

On The Fly

May 2010

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

PATTERN OF THE MONTH-Peeking Caddis

Hook: Daiichi 1560, 1X-long Nymph, #10-16. Thread: Black, 8-0.
Weight: Lead wire.
Rib: Copper wire.
Case: Hare's ear plus, natural.
Thorax: Caddis green Haretron
Legs: Brown Partridge fibers, collar style
Head: Black Ostrich herl.



Tying Instructions

- Step 1:** Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise. Start the tying thread two eye widths behind the eye and wrap a thread base back to a point just above the barb.
- Step 2:** Wrap about 7 turns of .015 lead wire around the shank just forward of the halfway point. Use thread wraps to secure the lead and form a taper underbody.
- Step 3:** Tie in the copper wire along the shank back to the hook bend.
- Step 4:** Apply hare's ear dubbing to the thread and wind forward to the lead. Tie off and trim. Wind 5 equal turns of wire forward over the dubbing to create the ribs.
- Step 5:** Apply the Caddis Green dubbing to the thread and wind forward 3 turns to form a thicker thorax. Tie off and trim.
- Step 6:** Select a Partridge feather with barbs long enough to reach the hook point, prepare, and wind one turn with fibers swept back. Tie off and trim.
- Step 7:** Select a black Ostrich herl, tie it in and wind 4 turns to form a head, Tie off and trim.
- Step 8:** Form a small neat head, whip finish, and cement.

This Emerger pattern was developed by George Anderson on the Yellowstone River. At the time he was the owner of Anderson's Yellowstone Angler Fly Shop. Tied to imitate the *Brachycentrus*, or Mother's Day Caddis, the nymph constructs a case made up of vegetative matter found on the stream bottom. Trout will eat the entire case, sometimes feeding on them exclusively. Most are found in moving water and need to be weighted to get them down, tumbling along the streambed with its head pointed toward the bottom.

TYING TIPS

Leave plenty of room behind the eye for the thorax, collar and head. Wrap the lead wire in slightly forward of center for the desired tipping effect. Taper an underbody of thread toward the lead before dubbing for a realistic look. Substitute olive or white colored dubbing for the thorax to match different species. The legs are often tied in as a down beard, not quite reaching the point of the hook. The Peeking Caddis is an easy tie using common, inexpensive materials. By learning the style you can easily change color and size to imitate any cased caddis available in your waters. So tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.