

Fly Pattern Sheet - Elk Hair Caddis

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Hook: Standard Dry Fly, or 1XS Dry
Thread: 70 Denier or smaller
Rib: Small Wire
Body: Dubbed, natural or synthetic
Hackle: Dry Fly quality
Wing: Elk Hair, flaired
Head: Elk Hair, clipped tips from wing

Tie this fly in any size and color that matches your local insects.



Notes: This is the traditional way to hackle an Elk Hair Caddis. I thought it should be shown to keep the instructions proper.

Here's what I do most of the time: I tie the hackle, by its tip, at the rear of the hook before starting the body; I then simply palmer the hackle forward after I dub the body, burying the stem into the body material. Tie off, clip the stem, add the wing. Done - down and dirty. They may get chewed apart occasionally, but I usually lose them faster than they fall apart.



Attach your thread an eye width back on the shank and tie down a wire rib as you wrap to the rear.



Apply a thin coat of dubbing to your thread. Dubbing should be sparsely applied and twisted tight on the thread.



Wrap the dubbing up the shank to the front tie in spot.
(Keep the dubbing tight as you wrap.)



Attach a dry fly hackle to the shank right in front of the body. Bind the stem up to the eye and clip the excess. Bring your thread back to the tie in spot.



Palmer (open spirals) the hackle to the rear of the body. Let it hang from the rear of the shank.



With the hackle held tight, bring the wire rib forward through the hackle, being careful not to bind any fibers down. Tie off the wire and trim the excess. Cut off the hackle tip at the rear of the body.



Cut, clean, and stack a small bundle of elk hair. Measure the wing to be just past the body. Flare the hair on top of the shank with two or three tight wraps.



Pull the butt ends up and bring the thread forward to behind the eye. Wrap a small neat head, half-hitch, whip finish, and cut your thread. Apply a spot of head cement to the thread.



Trim the hair butt into a largish head, at a sloped angle.

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