

House Fly... Terry McCormick

The pesky common house fly... Who needs them? Who wants them? As fly anglers we may not need or want them. Our prey may not need them, however they want them. We can give the fish we pursue what they want, not in the form of a real house fly, after all who wants to handle the dirty little bug? And what self respecting fly fisher would use real bait in the first place? We can temporarily satisfy the fish we are after (once they are hooked they will be very dissatisfied.) with an imitation of the house fly. The imitation house fly presented here is a good searching/attractor pattern with its iridescent, sparkling, fish attracting, peacock herl body and head. The wing of this terrestrial bug is easy to see as the fly dead drifts downstream. This attribute satisfies the angler and the hook up will provide the angler with satisfaction beyond due limit.

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad 94840, dry fly, size 14
Thread: 8/0 brown or black
Rib: Size small copper Ultra Wire
Body: Peacock herl
Wing: Light or bleached deer or elk hair
Head: Peacock herl



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and fix it in the vise. With tight, touching turns wrap a neat thread base from the hook eye to a point on the hook shank directly above the hook barb. Spiral wrap the thread forward to the hook eye. Cut a 6-inch length of wire from the spool and tie it to the top of the hook directly in back of the hook eye. Bind the wire to the top of the hook shank with closely spaced spiral wraps back to the rear thread hang point. Cut away any excess wire butt.



2. Select about 6 to 10 peacock herls and align their tips. As a group, stroke the herls from tip to butt between your thumb and forefinger. Tie the herls, by their tips, onto the top of the hook shank at the rear thread hang point. Bind the herl butts to the top of the hook shank with a few forward and back spiral thread wraps. Cut away any excess herl butt.



3. Form a 6-inch thread "dubbing loop" at the rear thread hang point. Spiral wrap the single thread strand from the bobbin forward $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the hook shank.



4. Lay the thread loop and herls together and twist them into a herl rope.



5. Form the body by wrapping the herl rope forward in close touching turns covering about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook shank. Tie off the herl rope with the single thread strand from the bobbin. Cut away the excess.



6. Wrap the rib wire forward in about 6, not too tight, spiral turns. Tie off the wire at the front of the body and cut away the excess wire tag end.

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7. Cut a small bunch of deer or elk hair from the hide. Clean/remove the under hair from the bunch and even the tips of the hair. Tie the hair to the top of the hook shank directly in front of and adjacent to the body. Cut away any excess hair butts in back of the hook eye.



8. Select two peacock herls, even their tips and stroke the herls from tip to butt. Tie the two herls, by their tips, onto the hook over the wing tie-on thread wraps. Wrap the two herls forward to build the head. Tie off the herls and thread with several half hitch or whip finish thread wraps. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of cement.

Casting & Tying at the Club... Tom Regina

The November Bull Session will be held Thursday November 13 at 6:30 PM at Miraflores Park on 17th Avenue, one block north of the railroad overpass. We will tie "Crazy Charley's", originally tied for bonefish but very good for specks, with Jerry Aldridge. Jerry is an accomplished fly dresser who is always happy to share his fly tying and fishing knowledge with others. So come to the Bull Session and pick his brain on both subjects. If you have them, please bring your own tools and vise. For our guest and members who do not have a vise and tools your club will provide them. As usual, the club will also provide all needed tying materials.

Also at Miraflores Park, the November Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday November 15 from 9:00 AM until about 12:00 or 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Terry McCormick will lead us in tying the House Fly. This house fly is simple and easy to tie. The bug has only a few trouble-free components - hook, thread, wire, peacock herl, and deer or elk hair - all of which are easy to work with. Take a look at the recipe elsewhere in this newsletter. This is a great fly for the beginner, or novice fly dresser to learn some basic fly tying techniques. If you know someone who is new to fly tying or who has expressed an interest in fly tying, bring them as our guest. Your club will provide all the materials and tools needed to tie the House Fly.

3/0 John Brand will continue his casting instruction for accuracy, distance, presentation, and fun at the Saturday clinic. Again guests are welcome and if you or your guest need, your club will be happy to provide fly rods for use during the casting clinic.

Russ and Jerry G. will be fishing in North Carolina and will miss the Saturday clinic. Which, in itself is ok. However, more importantly they won't be available to fix us one of there gourmet lunches. Which, in itself is not ok. However, lunch (of some sort) will be served. And it along with big and little people drinks will be free for club members and our guests.

For the past three years at the Saturday tying clinics we have tied the flies I chose. In 2006 we tied twelve streamers. In 2007, twelve nymphs. And in 2008 a dozen terrestrials. From the forgoing one could logically conclude that for 2009 I would choose to tie dry flies or perhaps even saltwater flies. However for 2009 we will only tie flies of my choice when I have no other choice. And that *other choice* can be your choice.

If you have a favorite go-to-fly, or other fly, you would like to learn to tie or if you would like to teach others how to tie the fly - please let me know. Some types of flies to think about are streamers, nymphs, dries, soft hackle wets, midges, tricos, feather wing, hair wing, poppers, freshwater: warm or cold, and saltwater, etc.

Whether you lead the tying session or another tier leads the session, I can write the tying instructions (With input from the session leader.) and do the photography for submission to Jerry Aldridge for publication in the Flies & Lies Newsletter. I will also obtain the materials you will need.

Let me know what fly you would like to see tied or what fly you would like to tie in 2009. Contact me at tom-regina@bellsouth.net or 458-2978 or see me at a club function.

New in the library
"On The Trout Stream With Joe Humphries" by one of the old masters in the sport. Book # 88.