

Dry Woolly Worm.... Tom Regina

Fly anglers normally associate woolly worm flies with streamers or wet flies. However most any woolly worm fly pattern can be tied as a dry fly by eliminating weighting wire, beads, or cone heads and tying the fly on a dry-fly hook and palmering with stiff rooster hackle the length of the hook shank.

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad R43, 1XF , 3XL, size 14
Thread: 8/0 black
Body: Orange Flex-Floss
Palmer: White rooster saddle hackle



Tying Instructions



1. Use a jam knot to start the thread on the hook shank one hook eye width back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns wrap the thread back to a point on the hook shank directly above the hook bare. At the thread hang point directly above the hook barb; tie in a full length of Flex-Floss to the top of the hook with five neat, tight, touching forward wraps of thread. Cut away the floss tag end.



2. Select an appropriate size saddle hackle and remove the plumulaceous barbs from the base of the quill. Above the bare quill from which the plumulaceous barbs have been removed, with scissors, cut away about one-fourth inch of barbs from both sides of the butt end of the quill. Cut close to the quill but not against the quill. The objective is to leave a stubble of barbs that the thread will "grab" thus preventing the quill from being pulled out from under the tie-in thread wraps. At the point of the last floss tie-in thread wrap, tie-in the stubble butt of the hackle feather.

(Review step 2 photo to see the relative distance between the floss and hackle tie-in points.) In neat touching thread wraps bind the stubble hackle quill to the top of the hook shank and cut away any excess hackle quill tag end. Wrap the thread forward to the thread tie-in point.



3. Lift the hackle feather out of the way. While stretching* the floss take 3 or 4 slightly overlapping wraps of floss forward to the rear of the hackle tie-in point. Lay the feather back over the wrapped floss and the hook bend. In touching turns continue stretching and wrapping the floss forward to the thread tie-in point. Wrap the floss back-and-forth several times to form a tapered body which is slightly larger at the center than at the ends. The last wraps of floss should end at the thread tie-in point. Tie-off the final floss wrap at the thread tie-in point with 3 or 4 tight thread wraps.

* Flex-Floss has great elasticity and strength. With a little experience you will learn how much to stretch the floss to achieve your desired body shape, bulk, taper, segmentation, and translucency or opacity.



4. Palmer the hackle forward in about 6 to 8 evenly spaced spiral wraps. Tie-off and cut away the tag end of the hackle feather. Form a neat thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head.