

Hook	Dry fly, sizes 10 to 18
Thread	Black 6/0 or 8/0
Tail	Moose body hair
Body	Peacock herl, then red floss, then peacock herl
Wing Post	White antron or poly yarn
Hackle	Coachman brown, one size larger than normal



1. Flatten the barb of a dry fly hook and secure in vise. Lay a thread base from the just behind the eye to the bend. Return thread to point 1/3 shank length behind eye. Cut a 1 1/2" length of poly yarn. Select about half the yarn (for a size 14) and set the other half aside for the next fly. Place yarn on top and at right angles to the shank and secure with 5 or 6 figure eight turns. Pull both ends of the yarn up and wrap 6 turns around the base of yarn and on top of shank. Take 3 or 4 figure eight wraps around the shank and the wing post, then another 6 turns around the base. Return thread to hook bend.

2. Select, cut from the hide, clean and stack 6-8 straight moose body hairs. Tie in at the bend so that tail extends a shank length (slightly longer is OK). Use the pinch technique and then wrap over the butt ends all the way to the wing post to form an even base for the body. Cut the butts of right next to the wing post, cover the loose ends and return thread to bend.



3. Lay two strands of peacock herl atop the shank from the wing post backwards. Cover the herl with thread wraps from the wing post back to the bend. Return thread to mid-hook. Twist the peacock herl loosely to form a chenille-like "rope" and wrap 3-4 turns of the rope around the shank at the bend and slightly forward to form a herl butt. Secure with 3-4 turns of thread and then wrap over the herl to the wing post. Don't cut the herl - leave it there for future use. Cut a 3" length of floss and tie in one end at the wing post. Wrap over the floss with thread back to the peacock herl butt. Return thread to wing post. Wrap floss forward in overlapping turns to form a smooth body. Wrap floss all the way to the wing post, secure with 3-4 thread wraps and trim.

4. Select a neck or saddle hackle one size larger than the hook and remove the webby part leaving 1/4" or so of bare quill. Tie in on top the shank with dark side of hackle up and wrap over the bare quill all the way back to the wing post. Return thread to just behind eye. Wrap 2-3 turns of peacock herl around the body just behind the wingpost and then the same amount of turns in front of the post. Secure herl with 3-4 thread wraps and trim excess.



Royal Parachute (continued)

5. Wrap about 6 counterclockwise turns of hackle around the wingpost starting just above the body with each turn slightly below the last. Secure the hackle with 3-4 wraps of thread just in front of the herl. The thread should be wrapped almost horizontally to trap as little of the hackle as possible. With your left hand push the hackle gently backwards and out of the way. If necessary, pick out trapped hackle carefully with bodkin. Trim excess hackle. Wrap small, neat head, cement and whip finish.



6. Working from the top, apply 3-4 tiny drops of head cement to the base of the wing post as close to the hackle as possible. This will cement the hackle wraps in place to form a much more durable fly. Cut the wingpost off about 1/4" above the hackle, either straight across or in the shape of a mayfly wing.

Tyer's Corner... Jerry Aldridge

Several folks have asked lately for a review of parachute style dry flies. Since the parachute is my favorite style, I am glad to oblige. The parachute floats well, even in fast water and is easy for old eyes to see. It floats low in the water and presents a realistic profile to the fish. The parachute style is most often used for mayflies but adapts very well for caddis and hopper imitations. With a little practice, it is relatively easy to tie and quite durable.

The royal parachute at first glance is rather gaudy with its flashy red and peacock body. It certainly does not look like any mayfly you are likely to encounter. But watch what happens to the gaudy body when it gets wet. The red floss turns dark and the peacock transforms to a mossy, dark olive, altogether a very buggy looking critter. Some wag once said that the royal is the adult stage of the prince nymph, another gaudy fly that attracts and catches fish well.

The parachute post is usually white but can be tied in any color. Black is often used in low light situations. A bright color such as orange is useful when you need to distinguish your fly in foam or fast water.

Some anglers prefer to tie with natural materials so various hairs and feathers are used. Natural posts are not usually trimmed at the top so some care must be taken to get the length right. Hair doesn't compress well and leaves a substantial bump where tied to the hook. To more accurately imitate the mayfly's slender body, tie in the hair on the eye side of the post rather than the tail side. Calf body hair is most commonly used but you might also try calf tail, moose, elk or deer hair, turkey flats, mallard flanks....the choice is limited only by your imagination.

Other anglers do not mind tying with artificial materials which opens the door to lots of yarns and flashy stuff. I prefer poly yarn - it is buoyant, easy to see on the water, easy to work with, does not leave a bump where tied to the hook, is durable and dirt cheap, and is easily shaped and trimmed. Antron yarn also works well but is a little more expensive. Various acrylic or nylon yarns available virtually anywhere are OK, too. Stay away from cotton, wool or other natural yarns as they absorb water and sink.

Come tie the royal parachute with us on November 14th at the Bull Session. Your club will provide tools and materials....Jerry