

The Pale Morning Dun... Jerry Aldridge

HOOK	Dry fly (Mustad 94840 or similar), size 14-20
THREAD	Pale yellow, 6/0 or 8/0
TAIL	Light dun hackle fibers
BODY	Pale yellow dubbing
WINGPOST	White or cream poly or antron yarn
HACKLE	Light dun



1. De-barb hook and secure in vise. Lay thread base from eye to bend. Build very small thread bump at bend with 3 or 4 turns of thread. Select about a dozen stiff, webless hackle fibers from a light dun neck hackle. Make sure the fibers are at least 1 1/2 hooks long. Remove fibers from quill making sure the ends stay aligned. Place fibers atop hook with fibers extending to the rear one hook length. "Pinch" in place, take three "soft loop" turns

and then apply pressure upward on thread. Notice how fibers splay outward and slightly upward to form a nice tail. Cover fibers forward with firm turns to mid-hook. Trim fibers there.

2. Place thread at point 1/3 shank length behind eye. Cut one inch length of yarn. Select a portion of yarn about a toothpick thick. Place center of yarn on top hook at right angles to shank. Secure yarn in place with 6 wraps of thread. Now wrap 6 more turns around yarn center firmly locking yarn in place. Now grasp both ends of yarn and pull upward and then take a dozen or so turns of thread around base of post with figure 8 turns around base and shank plus a few more turns around post. Return thread to bend.



3. Select a "wisp" of dubbing material and twist (one direction only) around thread. The dubbed thread should be just slightly thicker than the thread alone. Start dubbing forward with adjacent or slightly overlapping turns to form the delicate, tapered mayfly body. Dub in back and front to form thorax somewhat thicker than the abdomen. Leave thread hanging in front of wingpost.

4. Select hackle to match hook size. Remove fibers from 1/4" of butt end, Tie in in front of wing post, on top shank with concave side down. Secure hackle with 5-6 thread wraps and trim quill. Wrap 5-6 turns of hackle (counterclockwise looking down) around base of wingpost with each wrap underneath the last. Secure the last wrap just behind eye of hook with several turns of thread taking care to trap as little hackle as possible. Trim trapped hackle and wrap a very small, neat head. Lightly cement the head taking care not to touch hackle with cement. It may be easier to cement the head from the bottom. Cement the bottom of wing post in 2-3 spots, again taking care not to cement hackle.

