

Caterpillar... Tom Regina

Terrestrials, caterpillars among them, abound along most trout water from early summer through autumn and can be some of the best dry flies for prospecting during that time of year. Caterpillars end up in the water in the same way as most other terrestrials. That is to say they are blown onto the water from streamside vegetation.

Caterpillar imitations are fished in the same manner we discussed for fishing grasshoppers in the June 2008 "Flies & Lies" newsletter with the exception that anglers would do well to concentrate their efforts just along the stream bank, forgoing mid stream.

Tying Materials

Hook	Mustad 94831 size 8, 2XL, 2XF, dry fly
Thread	6/0 brown
Tail/Antenna	Peacock herl
Hackle	Brown rooster saddle
Body	White Larva Lace Sliced Dry Fly Foam colored yellow with a Prismacolor permanent marker
Rib:	Tying thread

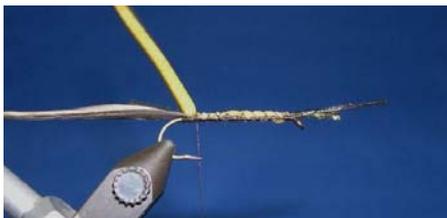


Tying Instructions



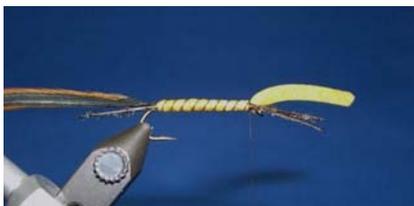
1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base over the hook shank from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb.

2. Tie in a section of peacock herl to each side of the hook shank. The herl should extend about ½-inch beyond both the front and rear of the hook to represent the caterpillar's tail and antenna. *Note: The tail and antenna are optional as they will likely be broken off after a few casts and the catching of a fish.*



3. Spiral wrap the thread to the rear of the hook shank. Tie the hackle feather to the rear side of the hook with the concave side facing you. Take the thread to the front of the hook to a point just in back of the antenna. Tie about a 3-inch strip of body foam to the top of the hook. Use several rearward spiral thread wraps to bind the foam strip to the top of the hook back to the tail.

Note: Normally materials are wrapped onto a hook by wrapping away from the fly dresser over the top of the hook. However to wrap the body foam strip for this caterpillar, wrap the foam toward the dresser over the top of the hook. If the foam strip were wrapped in the normal way the rib thread wraps and the hackle would fall between the turns of body foam and negate the rib or segmentation effect.



4. In neat touching turns, over the top of the hook toward the fly dresser, wrap the body foam strip forward to the antenna. While holding the foam strip tag end in place with your thread hand, wrap the "rib" thread forward in the normal manner with your material hand. Make about 8 to 10 evenly spaced spiral turns stopping at the front of the body. Tie off and cut away the foam tag end.

5. Spiral wrap the hackle forward directly over each of the rib thread turns. Tie off the hackle in back of and adjacent to the antenna. Cut away the excess hackle tag end. Build a small neat thread head over the foam and hackle tie off area. Whip finish or half hitch the thread head and cut away the thread. Apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head.

