

The Crackleback

Original Recipe by Ed Story

HOOK	Dry fly size 12, Mustad 94840 or equivalent
THREAD	Black 6/0 or 8/0
BODY	Pale morning dun turkey biot
SHELLBACK	3 strands of peacock herl
HACKLE	Dark furnace



1. Place hook in vise and lay thread base from eye to bend. Select a size 12 hackle and tie in at the bend with the hackle's dark side facing toward you. Measure the hackle with a gauge or gape of the hook (barb length 1 1/2 times gape width).

2. Place 3 strands of peacock herl on top hook shank with at least an inch extending rearward from the hook. Tie in the herl along the full length of the shank leaving a little room for the head of the fly. Return tying thread to bend. Cut 5 or so biots from the quill and tie in by the points along the full length of the shank starting at the bend. Bring tying thread forward to just behind hook eye.



3. Wrap the biots forward in firm, slightly overlapping turns to form the body of the fly. Tie the biots in just behind the eye and trim the excess. Some tyers like to use hackle pliers to wrap the biots; others prefer to wrap with one hand and use the other to keep the biots from unraveling. Apply a light coat of head cement to the biot body. Cracklebacks so treated have been known to last through more than two dozen fish.

4. Bring the peacock herl forward along the top of shank and tie in just behind the eye. Palmer the hackle forward with 5 or 6 turns and tie in behind the eye. Trim the excess, cover neatly with thread, whip finish the head and coat lightly with head cement.

