

December Quick Ties with Tom Regina.... Griffith's Gnat

Hook	Mustad 94840 or other standard dry fly hook size 16 - 24.
Thread	8/0 black.
Hackle	Grizzly.
Body	Peacock herl.



1. Crush the hook barb and fix the hook in the vise. Using a jam knot, start the thread about two hook eye distance behind the hook eye. In touching turns wind the thread back to the hook bend. Select a high quality grizzly hackle with barbs the length of one to one and a half times the hook gap. Strip the webby fibers from the base of the feather stem. At the hook bend, tie the hackle in on top of the hook with the concave side of the feather up. (*Tying the feather in with the concave side up will cause the feather barbs to slant forward when the hackle is wrapped*). Wrap the thread forward in close turns to the thread tie in point. Spiral wrap the thread back to the hook bend.

2. Select two or three peacock herls. Break off an inch or two of the fragile tips. At the hook bend, tie in the herl by the *new* tips.



3. Twist the herls and wrap them forward in touching turns to the thread tie in point. Tie off the herls and cut away the excess.

4. In close, but not touching, turns wrap the hackle forward to the thread tie in point. Tie off the feather and cut away the excess. Form a neat thread head, whip finish, cut away the thread and cement the head.



The Griffith's Gnat dry fly may well be the all time best midge pattern. It can represent an emerging midge, a small midge cluster, an egg-laying or a spent midge. When the hackle is trimmed short it becomes a suggestive nymph or pupa pattern. The Griffith's Gnat should be dressed lightly with floatant before fishing it. Because the fly may be hard for the angler to see, especially in smaller sizes, it is often fished as a dropper off a larger more visible dry fly or with a small yarn indicator three to five feet up the leader from the Griffith's Gnat.

The Griffith's Gnat is quick and easy to tie. The tools needed are: vise, bobbin, bodkin, scissors and a whip finish tool. An electrical test lead clip is also handy for twisting the body material.



Adding a white wing of CDC (cul de cunard or duck butt feather) to the Griffith's Gnat makes it easier for the angler to see the fly and as Doc Birdwell says "the fish don't care".