

Elk Hair Caddis

Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is the standard imitation for the caddis fly. It can be tied with or without a hackle or wire rib. When fished in riffles and runs of freestone streams or rivers the use of a hackle helps the fly "stand" on the water and helps prevent the fly from being swamped. When fished on smoother waters, omitting the hackle will allow the fly to sit lower in the water yet the fly still floats well. A rib wire adds durability to the fly, especially to the fragile hackle quill which is subject to being cut by the fishes teeth. With or without the hackle and rib wire, Al's Elk Hair Caddis catches trout (and pan fish) amazingly well. The Elk Hair Caddis is normally tied in sizes 18-12.

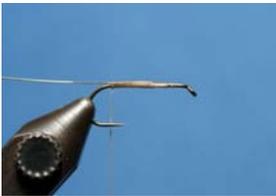
Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad 94840 (R50)*, size 14
Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 tan
Rib: Fine gold wire
Body: Tan Super Fine dry fly dubbing
Hackle: Ginger rooster saddle
Wing: Light elk hair



* O. Mustad & Son (USA), Inc. is in the process of changing the design and/or numbering system or designation of hooks. In this and future recipes published in *Flies & Lies* the number of the "Mustad Signature" hook that is replacing the specified "Classic" hook will be included in parentheses when it is known by the author.

Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and secure it in the vise. Using a jam knot start the thread on the hook one hook eye length back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns lay down a thread base back to a point directly above the hook barb. Cut a 4-inch length of fine gold wire from the spool and tie it to the top of the hook directly above the hook spear with tight thread wraps.



2. Dub a body that is somewhat thick at the back and tapers to a point two hook eye lengths back from the hook eye. Do not crowd the hook eye.



3. Select an appropriate size hackle, one with barb lengths just a bit longer than the hook gap. Strip away the fuzzy fibers from the base of the hackle quill. Tie the stripped part of the quill in front of and adjacent to the tapered body. Cut away the excess stripped quill.



4. Palmer the hackle in about six to eight evenly spaced turns to the back of the body. Capture the last turn of hackle under two tight turns of the rib wire.



5. Cut away the excess hackle behind the capture wire and wrap the wire forward through the body hackle in about five or six evenly spaced turns to the hook eye. Tie off the rib wire with several tight thread wraps and cut away the excess wire.



6. *Note: With experience you will be able to determine how much hair or fur to cut from hides for various size flies. When cutting hair or fur from any hide, always cut right down to the hide. When hair or fur is cut from above the hide, the hide quickly becomes hard to work with and much waste will occur. Cut to the skin and keep your hide ship-shape.*

Cut a fair amount of elk hair from the hide. Remove the fuzz, or under hair, from the cut hair and align the tips in a hair stacker. Measure the hair wing (minus the hair butts) the length of the hook. The back of the wing should stand up above the end of the hook and extend a bit beyond the hook bend. Pinch the hair between the thumb and forefinger of your off hand at the wing/butt division point. Hold the hair against the top of the hook in the space between the front of the body and hook eye. While pinching the hair to prevent it from migrating too far down the sides or under the hook, take several tight thread wraps round the hair and hook between your fingers and the hook eye. Continue to pinch the hair and finish tying the wing to the top of the hook with tight thread wraps beginning just behind the hook eye and working back onto the wing forming a distinct segmentation between the wing and hair butts. Lift the hair butts and make three or four half hitch or whip finish thread wraps behind the hook eye and under the hair butts. Cut away the thread.



7. Gather the hair butts between the thumb and forefinger of your off hand, pull the hair tight, and cut it straight across and even with the front of the hook eye to form the head. Apply a small amount of head cement to the half hitch/whip finish thread wraps and to the head/wing segmentation thread wraps.

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

At the September 10 Bull Session we will tie an Elk Hair Caddis with Tom Regina. Fly tying starts at 6:30 PM. Bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests.

The September Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday September 19 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM we will tie a Stealth Bomber with Jerry Aldridge. The Bomber is a popping/diving fly for bass that also works well in salt water. Bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests.

The materials list and tying instructions for the Stealth Bomber and the caddis are included in this newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday September 19. John can teach you basic fly-casting or help you improve your more advanced casting skills. Bring your long rod or use one of your club's sticks.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles will fix us another great lunch at the Saturday clinic. The menu this month is hot dogs... but not just any old dogs. Russ and Jerry will grill us some mighty fine Hebrew National quarter pound all beef premium taste franks with Gundelsheim original German recipe barrel sauerkraut served on a soft hoagie bun with hot sauce and mustard. Other dog fixin's will be available for you girlie types. If you do not want to tie flies, do not want to take advantage of the casting instruction, at least join us for lunch.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinics and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

KUDOS TO LARRY SISNEY

I would like to have a short note put in the newsletter regarding our Treasurer and the great job he does:

I recently completed an audit of our 2008 financial records. Every expenditure was verified against receipts and income verified on monthly reports. It is obvious that our Treasurer expends a good deal of effort to detail each transaction and report it in logical sequence. There were no errors found and in my opinion our finances are accurately reported and in good shape. Our Club owes a debt of gratitude to Larry Sisney for the excellent job he does. He takes pride in being 100 percent accurate in his accounting of our finances and spends a lot of time in doing so.

Thanks, Larry....Russ Shields