

## March Quick Ties with Tom Regina.... Cased Caddis

For most of us, tying the cased caddis will involve using at least one new material - model railroad ballast. Model railroad ballast is the “rocks” model railroaders use for track ballast and landscaping. The ballast comes in an array of colors and sizes. For about \$4 to \$6 you can buy, from a hobby shop, a lifetime supply of ballast for yourself and all your fly tying buddies. Don't. I already did and will be happy to share my ballast with y'all.

Tools needed to tie the cased caddis are a vise, bobbin, bodkin, scissors, cigarette lighter and sticks (tooth picks, etc.) to mix and apply epoxy glue. Hackle pliers and an electrical test lead clip are handy tools for this and other flies. Electrical test lead clips can be purchased from Radio Shack for about \$1. The materials needed to tie the cased caddis are hooks, beads, thread, head cement, antron yarn, partridge feathers, epoxy glue, UNI-Stretch and model railroad ballast.

At the Saturday March 19 casting and tying clinic your club will provide all the materials needed to tie the cased caddis. If you have your own tools please bring them. If you don't have fly tying tools, your club will provide them to you. Bring a guest(s). We will treat them as guests and provide your guests with materials, tools and instruction. Young'uns are especially invited. And we will feed your guests a free lunch.

### Tying Instructions

<b>Hook</b>	Mustad 9672 size 10
<b>Thread</b>	6/0 black
<b>Bead</b>	1/8" black tungsten
<b>Hackle</b>	Partridge feather (with dark marking)
<b>Underbody</b>	Chartreuse UNI-Stretch
<b>Glue</b>	Five minute epoxy
<b>Body</b>	Model railroad ballast



1. Crush the hook barb, place a bead onto the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Slide the bead away from the hook eye toward the vise jaws. At the hook eye, tie on a thread bump. Whip finish the thread bump, cut away the thread and coat the thread bump with head cement.



2. Slide the bead over the thread bump right up against the hook eye.



3. Reattach the thread in back of the bead and lay down in close touching turns a neat thread base to the hook bend. Cut a length of antron yarn about 2 inches long. With a fire stick (cigarette lighter) melt one end of the yarn to form a *black* cased caddis head. Lay the caddis headed yarn on top of the hook shank with the black head hanging over the hook bend about 1/8 inch. Starting at the back of the hook (the head of the fly) tie down the yarn with a few tight thread wraps. Keeping the yarn on top of the hook, tie the yarn down to the bead. Cut away the excess yarn and wrap the thread back to the yarn tie-in-point at the back of the hook.

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5. Select a nicely marked partridge feather with short barbs. Strip the soft fuzz from both sides of the base of the feather then strip the barbs from one side of the feather. Tie the feather in by the tip at the hook bend, right behind the head of the bug. Cut away the excess feather tip and wrap the partridge hackle around the hook two or three times. Take a few thread turns in front of the hackle to force it back over and around the head of the fly. Wrap the thread forward to the bead, whip finish and cut away the thread.



6. At the bead, using a jam knot, tie in the UNI-Stretch underbody material. Wrap several layers of underbody to build up bulk. However, don't build up too much bulk at the head (hook bend) of this fly as it will reduce the hook gap. And that ain't good cause fish won't get hooked and you will have only a fish tale to tell about the big one that got away and we ain't gonna believe it. KEEP A WIDE HOOK GAP. When the desired tapered underbody (larger at the bead end) is attained, tie off the underbody material with a whip finish and cut away the material.



7. Mix a small amount of five minute epoxy glue, about enough for two flies. Apply a liberal coat of epoxy to the underbody of the cased caddis. Allow the epoxy to get tacky. Then plunge the fly into the model railroad ballast. Use your fingers to force the ballast into the epoxy. Keep the hook eye clear of epoxy and stones. Hang the finished flies to dry overnight.

*This space reserved  
for your fish stories,  
photos and tall tales in  
general. No tall tale  
to tall to tell.*

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