

Parachute Cricket...Karen Brand

Materials

Hook:	Mustad 94831 size 8 or 10, dry fly
Thread:	6/0 black
Tail:	Dyed black deer body hair
Body:	Tying thread
Underwing:	Pearl Krystal Flash
Wing:	Dyed black deer body hair
Parachute post:	White Polypropylene floating yarn
Legs:	Medium size black round rubber
Thorax:	Peacock herl
Parachute:	Black rooster saddle hackle



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise. Using a jam knot, tie the thread onto the hook. Lay down a neat thread base on the hook shank to a point directly above the hook barb.



2. Cut a small bunch of deer hair from the hide. Clean out the under hair and stack or even the hair tips. Tie these tail hairs' to the top of the hook shank so the tail extends about one-half hook shank length distance beyond the back of the hook. Bind the hair butts to the top of the hook shank with closely spaced spiral thread wraps to a point about one-fourth hook shank distance back from the hook eye. Cut away the excess hair butts at about a 45 degree angle. With the tying thread, form a neat tapered body *being careful not to crowd the hook eye*.



3. Cut 6 to 8 strands of Krystal Flash from the skein and tie them onto the top front of the thread body. Cut the flash underwing even with the back of the tail.



4. Cut a small bunch of deer hair from the hide. Clean out the under hair and stack or even the hair tips. Tie the wing onto the top of the thread body and flash tie-on thread wraps. The wing should extend back and be even with the tail and underwing. At a 45 degree angle, cut away the excess wing butts. Bind the butts down to form a neat thread ramp. *Caution: Do not crowd the hook eye*.



5. Cut a 2-inch piece of poly yarn from the skein. Split the cut of yarn into thirds lengthwise. Tie one of the yarn thirds onto the top of the underwing tie-on thread wraps.



6. Lift the two ends of yarn vertically, and take several tight, horizontal thread wraps around and up the base of the fibers to consolidate the yarn halves and build a foundation on which the parachute hackle will be wrapped.

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7. Cut two 2-inch lengths of round rubber leg material from the skein. Tie one leg onto each side of the body over the underwing/wing/post tie-on thread wraps. *Caution: Do not crowd the hook eye.*



8. Select an appropriate size hackle feather from the rooster saddle. Strip barbs from the base of the feather to expose about one-half inch of quill. Bind the exposed quill to the hook shank and post foundation with horizontal thread wraps up the post to the very top of the thread foundation. *Notice there should be a small section of bare quill left between the uppermost post thread wraps and the lowermost feather barbs.* Cut away any excess quill.



9. Select two or three peacock herls and align their tips. As a group, stroke the herls from tip to butt between your thumb and forefinger. Tie the herls, by their tips, onto the hook shank directly in back of and adjacent to the back legs. Cut away excess herl tips. Wrap the herls forward between the back legs and the post, up to and forward of the post, between the post and front legs to in front of and adjacent to the front legs to form the thorax. Tie-off and cut away the excess herl butts. In one or two wraps, return the thread to the base of the post, working it between the front legs and imbedding it into the thorax.



10. Starting at the top of the post thread base, wrap the parachute hackle in a clockwise direction down the thread base in about 4 to 6 turns. Be sure to take each consecutive turn below the proceeding wrap. Be careful to avoid binding down hackle barbs from the previous wrap. Tie-off the parachute hackle by taking several horizontal clockwise thread wraps around the base of the post and over the bottom turn of the hackle feather. In one or two light wraps, take the thread forward, working it onto the herl thorax. Continue to take the thread forward to the hook eye. Build a neat thread head. Half hitch or whip finish the thread and cut it away. Cut away the excess parachute hackle feather. Apply a small drop of head cement to the point where the topmost hackle wrap meets the post. Apply a small amount of cement to the thread head. Cut the post to the desired height.

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