

KLINKHAMER EMERGER



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Opening Comments

People have bragged about the Klinkhamer for years. However, some folks I have seen tying what they called a Klinkhamer were really tying some wild variations of it. Then I saw Judy Gattinella from Marysville, WA tying her version of it at the 2012 National Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane, Washington. It was a great looking fly.

According to several websites Hans van Klinken (a Dutch fly tier) developed this fly in 1984. He was attempting to mimic the caddis larva he found in the grayling he fished for in Norway and his native Holland. He had been using a pattern called Rackelhanen. It floated well when cast upstream, but it sank when “tweaked” or jiggled a little to simulate a live insect.

Apparently it took him 4 months to develop the pattern to his satisfaction. His pattern became known as the “Klinkhamer Special.” It caught trout and grayling all over Europe. Since Hans was imitating a light body caddis larva he had a white or light body. Some tiers have told Judy she was doing it wrong when she used an orange body to simulate an October Caddis. However, if you think about it, from the beginning it is a case of matching the hatch. One website has black, olive, cream, brown, sulfur and claret

Klinkhamers.

You present this pattern in the usual dry fly way -- drag free float. Its white wing is something for you to see and a body under water for the fish to see.

Materials list

Hook: Klinkhamer extreme, size 12

Thread: 8/0 dark orange

Post: Poly, white

Hackle: Badger

Body: Uni yarn, orange

Thorax: Peacock herl

Tying steps



Step 1

Put the hook in the vise so the part of the hook near the eye is horizontal. Put a thread base on it and let the thread hang near the back of the horizontal part.



Step 2

Select about half the amount of poly that you would normally use for a post and wrap it under the hook and lash it down. Use the picture above for position of post.



Step 3

Pick a neck hackle with barbs a little longer than the gap. Remember the gap is about the distance from the point to the shank. How I measure it on a curved hook like this is on a line perpendicular to the point. Stroke some of the barbs away from the tip and trim them to leave a little stubble. Tie it onto the shank behind the post with the feather extending up along the post. An oversize hackle is good because the barbs are the only thing that floats the fly.



Step 4

Tie the Uni yarn on top of the hook. Start tying behind the post and wind backward to a position opposite the point. This gives you a smooth body without the bump if the yarn was tied only at the back.



Step 5

Wrap the yarn smoothly toward the post. Secure and trim the yarn.



Step 6

Pick two peacock herls for size 12 hooks and only one for smaller hooks. Tie them behind the post on the horizontal part of the hook.



Step 7

Twist herl around thread to strengthen it. Put two wraps behind post and a couple in front. Secure herl and trim.



Step 8

Make a nice whip finish between the thorax and the eye. Trim thread.



Step 9

Rotate the hook 90 degrees so the eye is down.



Step 10

Change to Spider thread, which is a fine slippery thread, start at base of post, Wind the thread up the post to make a flat place for wrapping the hackle. Wind back down to the base of the post.



Step 11

Wrap the hackle toward the shank, one wrap under the previous one, as many times as possible. Wrap the thread around the post to capture the hackle. Finally whip finish under the parachute hackle using a Matarelli tool. Use a very fine tool to apply a little head cement on the thread winds under the parachute. Judy found that two fibers of a Loon applicator brush are great for applying head cement. Trim thread and excess feather.



Step 12

Occasionally one or two barbs of the hackle will be forced down. Just trim them off to keep the flat surface on the parachute. Also trim the post to about a gap width high.

Closing Comments

The color of the hackle is not too important as long as has some white on it. Generally the white hackle disappears. Judy uses Frog Fanny floatant. She spoke highly of it. I'll have to get some and try it. If you can't get the official Klinkhamer hooks use a long curved shank hook and bend the front part down about 30 degrees. Use Step 1 as a guide. Is it a true Klinkhamer? I won't tell. However, tie a bunch and go fishing.

I learned to use the Matarelli to secure parachute hackle about 1996 from Julie Ray in Bob's Fly Shop, Loveland, Colorado. If you are not sure how to use it check Fly of the Month, August 2005, Step 11.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.

You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at
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