

DOC'S MAYFLY



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Opening Comments

Jeremy Gilbertson from Billings, MT tied this pattern at the 2011 FFF Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, Montana. He tied it to be a durable all-day fly, which guides like because they do not have to keep changing a guest's fly. He fishes it on the Missouri and Bighorn rivers where there are a lot of fish to catch if you know how to do it. If you are lucky, or very skillful you might even play with some of those big browns that lurk there.

Besides being an all-day fly it is also an all season fly. Jeremy uses it to imitate a female *Baetis*, size 18, in the spring, a PMD, sizes 16-14, in the summer and a *Pseudocloeon*, size 20, in the fall. The tying steps are the same for all sizes. (If the fancy names scare you just think in terms of a reasonable mayfly, 14, a smallish mayfly, 18, and a tiny mayfly, 20.) You can talk to someone who knows the river and the hatches to identify what fly to use.

Fishing the Missouri and Bighorn rivers will give you all kinds of water challenges. I fished both rivers with some degree of success. However, when you hook into something it is a lot of fun. Be prepared with floating and sink tip fly lines. There were times on the Bighorn when 200 very fussy fish were rising below me. If you are wondering where the name came from: "Doc" was Jeremy's nickname in his younger days.

Materials list

Hook: Tiemco 2488H, size 16 size for PMD

Thread: Light Cahill, 6/0

Tail: Brown dry fly hackle

Wingcase/ abdomen: Rainy's nymph stretch or scud back

Thorax/legs: Goose CDC

Tying steps



Step 1

Make a thread base from the eye to hook point.



Step 2

Pull a few fibers from a brown dry fly hackle. Try to keep the tips even. Secure fibers to hook, and wind thread rearward to behind the barb. Wind thread to eye, trim excess hackle barbs, and return to point of hook.



Step 3

Tie on a piece of nymph stretch or scud back. Leave a little excess in front and back. Wind thread rearward a little. This is the first segment. Now you are going to build two more segments with the thread.



Step 4

Hold the rear tag and spiral the thread rearward about the width of the first segment. Wind rearward over the tag to produce another segment. Stop winding rearward before you cover the tail tie down. Spiral the thread forward to front of first segment. Trim rear tag now if you wish. Pick up the front tag and wind thread on shank to a little in front of point.



Step 5

Wind thread forward over the front tag to make another segment equal to or slightly bigger the first segment. Fold the front tag back. If you are a goose hunter or have friends who hunt you can complete this step with goose CDC, otherwise substitute duck CDC. Spin CDC loosely on tying thread. Wind the dubbing and thread forward to behind eye. Some say that it is the bubbles that CDC attracts that interests the fish. But CDC moves easily in the water, and that might be what attracts fish.



Step 6

Pull front tag forward and secure behind hook eye and trim. Complete the fly with a whip finish. Pick out the CDC for legs. Trim CDC under fly.



Step 7

Top view of fly shows the segmentation and nice legs.

Closing Comments

This is a little different method of tying a fly. All of the segments are made with thread alternately hiding and exposing the nymph stretch material. Keep close eye on location of the thread so you can make the segments look good. Tie up a few and try them out. Start with the largest hook size and work to the smallest.

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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