

Nick's Soft Hackle Caddis Emerger

This little soft hackle emerger was developed by Nick Nicklas of Blue Ribbon Flies to represent emerging caddis. This classic English soft hackle has produced steadily since its introduction. Typically the fly is tied unweighted and fished across and downstream. This method keeps the fly swinging just below the surface suggesting an emerging caddis. Tie some up and try them out during this caddis season.

Recipe:

Hook: Tiemco 2302 size #16

Thread: Danville's brown 6/0. The heavier thread helps form a nice and neat head

Body: Antron dubbing; green, brown or tan

Underwing: White Zelon

Hackle: Brown or gray partridge

Tying Instructions:

1. Begin by attaching your tying thread at the bend of the hook and dubbing a shaggy body. Wrap to just short of the hook eye.
2. Next tie in the underwing composed of 15-20 strands of Zelon on top of the hook shank with the butts then doubled over and tied down with tight wraps of tying thread at the tie in point. Trim the underwing to the length of the body.
3. Select a partridge hackle. The fibers should be slightly longer than the hook shank or about twice the hook gap.
4. Tie in the full hackle by the hackle tip wrapping two or three turns to leave little or no room behind the hook eye.
5. Carefully wrap back over the hackle forming a neat small head and causing the hackle fibers to sweep back over the body at the same time.

Pro tip:

If you have trouble wrapping the hackle because the hackle stem is stiff, use your thumb nail or pliers to carefully crush the hackle stem making the hackle more flexible.

Go fishing,

-Bob Foster