

Bob's Fast Water BWO

Tied by Bob Haase



Hook: Mustad 94840 or TMC100 #18-20
Thread: Griffith Sheer 14/0 (Gray)
Body: BWO Dry Fly Dubbing



Tail: Dun Hackle Fibers
Wings: Dun Hackle or Saddle feather palmered

The two pictures above have a lot in common, because this simple to tie Fast Water BWO is often found attached to a trout. This has become one of my go-to flies. I tie it as a BWO, Adams, and other common patterns. The fly does not include any upright wings or other fine details as it is designed for fast water and riffles where the water is refracted so the trout cannot see it as well. The amount and density of hackle helps create a larger silhouette for the fish to see and also helps keep it afloat longer in the fast water. If you get to a place where the fish can see better and are more fussy, you can always take your clipper and reduce the amount of hackle. There are some other details to this fly that will be explained later on that also help make this fly very durable and easy to tie. You can apply these principles to other flies as well.



Step 1 - Start the thread and advance it to the bend of the hook. Tie in a few hackle fibers for a tail. I usually take a few more fibers than normal for this fly, but not too many. Dub the body half way to the eye of the hook and stop there. Use your favorite dry fly dubbing in a BWO color or the appropriate color if tying an Adams or other pattern.



Step 2 - Advance the thread to the eye of the hook and tie the hackle or saddle feather in just behind the eye of the hook. Then advance the thread to the middle of the hook where you ended with the dubbing.



Step 3 - Start by wrapping the feather forward to just before the eye of the hook and then reverse and tightly wrap the feather to just over the edge of the dubbing. Wrap the feather to make it as dense as possible without over doing it. Tie the feather off by wrapping the feather twice around the thread and bringing both up at the same time. This will wrap your thread completely around the stem of the feather rather than just over the top making a more durable tie off of the hackle.



Step 4 - Trim off the feather and advance the thread to the eye of the hook by rotating your vise (if you use a rotary vise) as you weave the thread so as not to mat down the hackle fibers. Whip finish and you are done. I usually apply a permanent water proofing to the fly after I have a few of these tied up.

Note: If you look at the hackle where it meets with the dubbing you will notice that the fibers angle backward toward the back of the hook. If you were to start in the middle and advance to the eye of the hook, the fibers would angle toward the eye and make it more difficult to tie off. Look at the hackle at the center of the fly

and the eye of the hook and see how much easier it is to tie off using this method. Also by carefully wrapping over the stem of the feather as you advance the thread to the eye of the hook you create a more durable fly. Have you ever had your hackle dangling from the tie in point after catching a fish? This will help prevent that.

Flies don't have to be fancy to catch fish..... they just need to be fancy to catch the fisherman. Flies do have to represent what the fish want to eat, and this fly seems to work in a number of situations as I catch a lot of fish on this and other flies like this. I think part of the success of this fly is the ability to stay afloat longer and create a better silhouette for the fish to see in the fast refracted water of a riffle.