

Hex Fly

May 28, 2000

Last year, I stayed off the road for the most part, and got serious about learning more about fishing here in the Greater Northeast. One interesting experience involved our regional Hexagenia hatch. I was forewarned of this by several friends, all of whom are qualified experts on this area. I tied up a few huge White Wulffs, figuring that the fish in our ponds and slow streams would be rather gullible, especially as dusk fell.

What a misconception! I got skunked the first evening of the Hex hatch, with trout slurping up naturals all around me. Paddling off the pond in my float tube well after dark, I left my head lamp on, and scanned the water. The story was quite dramatic; there were semi-emergent, struggling "cripples" all over the place! In retrospect, it occurred to me that I had not seen a trout actually engulf one of the sprightly sailboats that began popping out onto the surface just as darkness fell; the birds scarfed them up like a bunch of kids do potato chips at a picnic, but the trout rises appeared where there was no apparent adult mayfly present.

So, to the tying bench. It took several iterations, but I finally came up with a design that worked quite well. Maybe it will help you folks, also. It's very simple to tie. Here's the dressing:

Hook	Typical dry fly, size 8 or 10. I like the Daiichi model 1180.
Thread	Pale-colored and fine; here, 8/0 UniThread.
Extended Body	A closed-cell foam cylinder; also pale in color.
Wing(s)	Pale-colored deer or elk hair, tied downwing style.
Hackle	Cream, pale grizzly, or the two mixed.

The Tying Sequence:

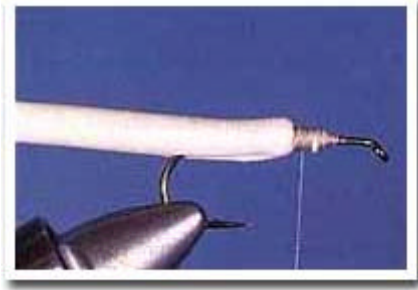


Step 1. Make a slice in the foam, as shown.



Step 2. Wrap a thread base over the rear half of the hook shank and apply a smear of Zap-A-Gap.

Hex Fly continued



Step 3. Seat the foam cylinder as shown and tie down the front end of it.



Step 4. Tie on the wing in this position. It should spread laterally.



Step 5. Applying the hackle completes the fly. Trim off the bottom hackle, if you wish.

I have a lifetime problem matching the Eastern Green Drake duns during emergence. I have a hunch this design may help. I intend to emulate the colors and give it a trial run this June. Wish me luck, as I do all of you.

I wrote up this fly in my column in *American Angler Magazine's* May/June 2000 issue.

For other Fly Tying Projects, please visit my website at www.dicktalleur.com. You will also find information about past and upcoming guided fishing trips, my books and instructional videotapes, recommended products, and upcoming classes and shows.

