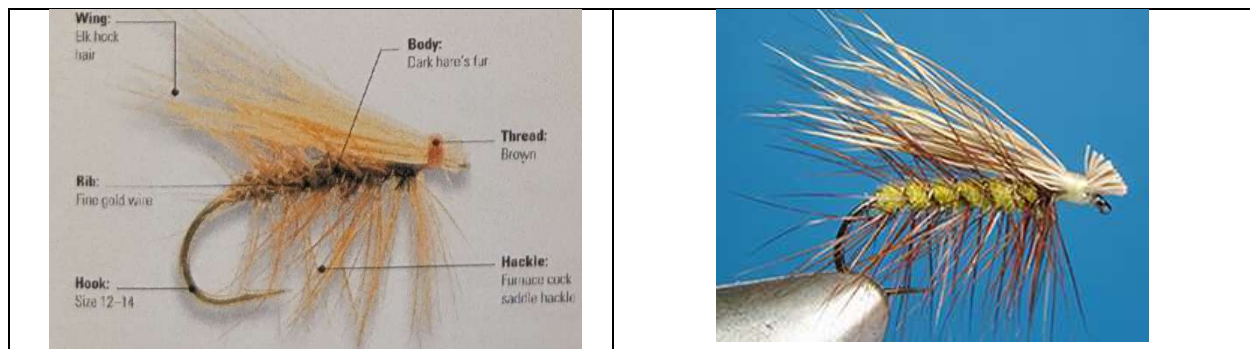


FDG Trout & Grayling Trout Fly Course

Elk Hair Caddis



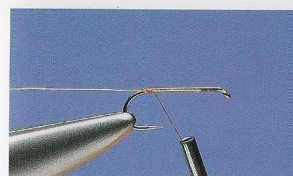
A pattern from Peter Gathercole's book 'The Fly-Tying Bible' p44

Pattern / Materials

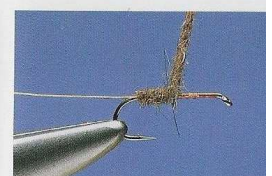
Hook	DE Dry Fly Hook # 12 - 14
Thread	Brown 8/0
Rib	Fine Gold Wire
Body	Dark Hare's Ear Dubbing (alternative is green seal fur or dubbing)
Body Hackle	Furnace Cock Saddle Hackle
Wing	Elk Hock Hair
Head	Black thread, varnished

Method**Elk Hair Caddis**

Al Troth developed this superb imitation of an adult caddis fly. Rather than imitating a particular species, it uses the typical roof-wing profile to mimic a whole range of medium to small brown caddis flies. The wing is made from a small bunch of elk hock hair that has been bleached to a light tan. Elk hock is reasonably tough, but still retains some of the buoyancy found in ordinary elk hair. As when tying any hairwing, care must be taken to make the hair secure. Once the body and hackle are in place, the hair is presented to the hook so that the tips project just past the bend. Four tight turns of thread will lock the hair in place, with two or three slightly looser ones used to position the wing low over the body. After the thread is cast off, the excess hair can be trimmed off at the eye.



1 Once the hook is fixed in the vice, run the thread down the shank to a point opposite the barb, using tight, touching turns. Take 5cm (2 inches) of fine, gold wire and catch in place so the waste end lies along the length of the shank.



2 Take a pinch of dark hare's fur and apply the tying thread. Dub it with finger and to form a thin yarn. Wind the yarn to cover the length of the hook.



3 Select a furnace cock saddle hackle. Prepare it by removing any broken fibres from the base to leave a short stub of bare stem.



4 Catch the hackle in at the eye by the stem of bare stem. Gently hold the tip with a pair of hackle pliers and begin to wind the hackle in evenly spaced turns.



5 Once the hackle has reached the end of the body, take hold of the gold wire and wind it in evenly spaced turns up to the eye. This will hold the hackle turns in place.



6 Secure the wire with thread and remove excess. Also remove the hackle tip with scissors. Secure a bunch of elk hock hair behind the eye as a wing. Trim the elk hair in front of eye to leave a short stub, and cast off the thread.