

FDG Trout & Grayling Trout Fly Course

Elk Hair Emerger



A pattern from Peter Gathercole's 'The Fly-Tying Bible' p34

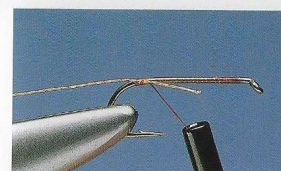
Pattern / Materials

Hook	DE Dry Fly #12-14
Thread	Brown 8/0
Rib	Fine Oval Gold Tinsel
Body	Fiery Brown Seal Fur
Wing	Elk Hair
Head	Brown thread, varnished

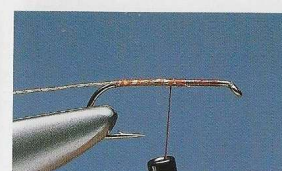
Method

Elk Hair Emerger

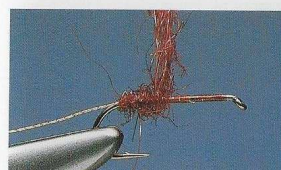
This simple, hackleless fly is tied specifically for fishing on lakes and reservoirs. It is designed to imitate a hatching chironomid midge, an insect that makes up a large part of the stillwater trout's diet. Because there isn't a hackle, the Elk Hair Emerger relies on its elk-hair wing and teased-out fur body to keep it floating. The body is applied by gently dubbing a small amount of fur onto the tying thread to form a thin, fluffy rope. Once applied, the point of a needle or a small piece of Velcro is used to rag the fur out slightly, making it more translucent and increasing its surface area. The Elk Hair Emerger is tied in a range of colours including fiery brown, orange, claret and black.



1 With the hook fixed in the vice, run the tying thread on at the eye and carry it down the shank to a point opposite the barb. Catch in 5cm (2 inches) of fine, oval, gold tinsel.



2 Using closely wound turns of tying thread, secure the waste end of the tinsel to the shank. This procedure ensures an even base to which the body can then be applied.



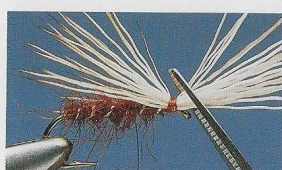
3 Take a pinch of fiery brown seal fur and apply it evenly to the thread. Dub it on with a simple finger-and-thumb twist and wind the resulting rope along the shank.



4 Stop the body a short distance from the eye, pinching away any excess fur. Take hold of the gold tinsel and wind five or six tight, evenly spaced turns over the body.



5 Secure and remove the loose tinsel end. Take a small bunch of elk hair, remove any broken fibres, and make sure that the tips are level. Catch it in place with tight thread turns so that the tips project just past the hook bend.



6 Secure with further turns of thread. Then, using slightly looser turns at the base, position the wing to sit at 45 degrees to the shank. Cast off the thread with a whip finish and trim the hair at the eye to leave a short stub.