

MIDGE EMERGER as tied by Peter Hughebaert



Hook: Tiemco TMC2487 or a standard dry-fly hook, sizes from 18 to 12 work best

Thread: 8/0 black or tan

Tail: Moose Body hairs (stacked)

Body: Spun Caribou is best for 16 and 18. Fine deer-hair will work on 14 and 12.

Hackle: Grizzly, Brown, Cree or Barred Ginger.

Tying Instructions (*this fly is tied in a similar manner as the Goddard Caddis*)

Start thread on shank, just above barb - winding only 6 to 8 tight turns to the rear and then one turn forward to the centre of these turns.

Select and cut off a small bunch of Moose body hair of a size to imitate the Midge shuck. Clean out the fuzz, trim the butts back somewhat and stack the hair. Hold the bunch down firmly and take two soft turns straight above the thread location, tighten slowly and then take two or three turns forward, trim off the butts, put a dab of cement on them and then tie the ends of the cut hair down. Take one turn of thread to the centre of the thread base.

Select and cut off a small bunch of spinning hair of a size to suit the fly. Clean out the fuzz, cut the tips and with the butts to the rear hold the bunch down firmly and take two soft turns straight above the thread location, tighten slowly and roll the hair slightly back and forth, then pull the thread down firmly to spin the hair, pull the flared hair back slightly with your left hand and then take two turns in front. This should completely cover the thread base you put down over the tail.

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Continue spinning bunches of hair on the bare hook shank with the two "soft turns" technique and pack it to the rear with your right thumbnail and index finger nail. Leave sufficient space at the eye for the later tie in of a hackle and a small, neat head. Tie off.

Cut the hair to the shape of a short, skinny cigar by holding your scissors pointing to the rear - trim the belly as flat as possible first (to give maximum hooking clearance) and then clip the remainder of the body into shape.

Select a dry-fly quality hackle with fibres a little longer than the gape of the hook, cut the stem and trim the sides back a little, leaving the cut ends of the fibres on the stem to assist the thread hold. Tie the hackle in, good side toward you, just in front of the hair, approximately parallel to the hook shank with the tip to the rear. Take about 4 turns of thread to secure the hackle. Then take two or three wraps of thread through the clipped hair, toward the rear, so the thread is about 1/4 of shank length from the front. Use your hackle pliers to take one full turn of hackle at the front and one open turn of hackle back toward the thread. Holding the hackle toward you, take three or four tight turns of thread forward through the spun hackle ending at the head area. Snap the excess hackle off, form a head sufficient to cover the rough spot on the hook eye and then whip finish.

To make a very sturdy fly, put a drop of rod varnish on the head and let it soak back into the spun hackle roots and clipped deer hair. Clean the eye out before you put it away to harden.

To fish this fly properly you should use some leader sink on the tail (shuck) and a touch of floatant on the front hackle. The shuck should sink to about a 45 degree angle, being held up by the hackle and the front of the deer hair body. Select fly size and hackle colour to match the emergers on the water.

