

**Hook and Hackle Club**

**Fly Tying For Beginners**

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Photography: Court Mackid  
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## Introduction

Welcome to the world of fly tying. This is a great hobby - I know, I have been tying flies for over 30 years. Fly fishing is my passion and fly tying takes it to the next level.

This booklet has been created as an addition to the club's "Introduction to Fly Tying" booklet. It contains a lot of good information, but I thought it was time we updated it.

The Beginner Fly Tying Course that I'll be teaching consists of 7 flies, although the booklet contains 8 flies. I'll be teaching the following patterns:

- Woolly Bugger
- Marabou Leech
- Beadhead Prince Nymph
- Pheasant Tail Nymph
- Chernobyl Ant
- CDC and Elk
- Parachute Blue Winged Olive Mayfly

There is also a bonus fly in the booklet - the Mohair Leech. Once you tie a Marabou Leech, you will have no problem with this fly.

These flies are what anglers are using in local waters, both rivers and lakes, to catch trout, whitefish and Arctic grayling.

I have listed the materials for each fly in the order in which they are tied onto the hook. Good patterns are written in this way to make it easier for you, the fly tier. You will note that I have not listed the thread size or colour - for beginners I recommend black 6/0 thread. When you get to tying smaller flies, those that are size 16 or smaller, an 8/0 thread is better. For now, let's start with 6/0 as it is a good starting point.

Also, because of the wide variety of hooks available today, I have attached a hook comparison chart. For example, some of the fly patterns list a Tiemco 5210. This will mean nothing to you until you use the Hook Comparison Chart to understand that this is a standard dry fly hook. If you prefer to use the less expensive Mustad hooks, you can simply do so by choosing the Mustad 94840 hook.

A special thanks goes out to Court Mackid. He photographed the flies presented in this booklet.

Anyway, enough said ---- let's start tying.

Dennis Killips  
2005

## Fly (1) - Woolly Bugger



**Hook:** #2 to #12 3XL (three extra long) nymph or streamer hook. (Demo size #6)

**Tail:** Black marabou

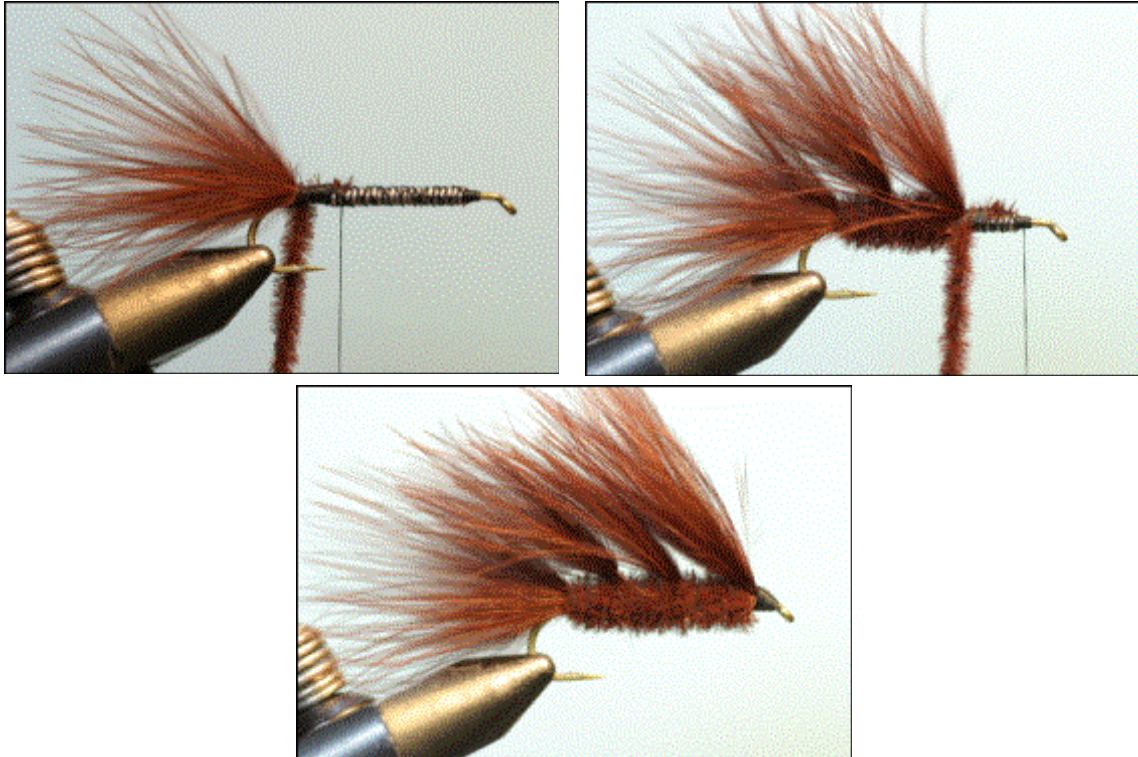
**Body:** Black chenille

**Hackle:** Black saddle hackle

**Comments:** Also good in white, brown or olive. Add a bead or a cone. Or add a few strands of flashabou or crystal flash to give it extra appeal.

1. Lay a base of thread covering the hook shank.
2. Tie in marabou above the hook barb. The tail should be the length of the hook shank.
3. Tie in chenille above the hook barb.
4. Measure the hackle barbs to be 1 1/2 to 2 times the hook gap. Tie in hackle by the tip, with the shiny side forward, above the barb.
5. Wrap chenille forward to 1 hook eye distance behind the hook eye and tie off.
6. Wrap the hackle in 4 to 6 open spirals, evenly spaced (palmered), to hook eye and tie off.
7. Wrap a thread head and tie off.

## Fly (2) - Maribou Leech



**Hook:** #2 to #12 3XL (three extra long) nymph or streamer hook. (Demo size #6)

**Underbody:** Lead wire, the same diameter as the hook shank. (Demo .025 inch)

**Tail:** Brown marabou

**Body:** Brown chenille

**Wing:** Brown marabou

**Comments:** Also good in black or olive. Add a bead or a cone.

1. Wrap lead beginning at hook point to 2 eye lengths behind hook eye.
2. Lay a base of thread covering the hook shank and the lead wraps.
3. Tie in marabou above the hook barb. The tail should be the length of the hook shank.
4. Tie in chenille above the hook barb.
5. Wrap chenille forward to 1/3 of the shank.
6. Tie in a first wing of marabou,  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the tail.
7. Wrap chenille forward to 2/3 of the shank.
8. Tie in a second wing of marabou,  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the tail.
9. Wrap chenille forward to a point 1 hook eye behind the eye.
10. Tie in third wing of marabou, the length of the tail, and tie off.
11. Wrap a thread head and tie off.

## Fly (2 bonus) - Mohair Leech



**Hook:** #2 to #12 3XL (three extra long) nymph or streamer hook.

**Underbody:** Lead wire, the same diameter as the hook shank.

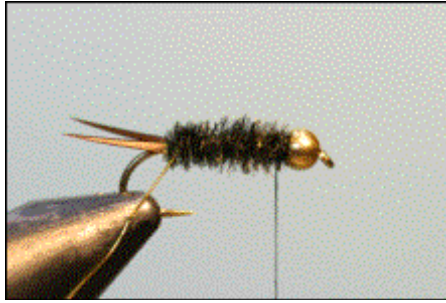
**Tail:** Brown and black marabou

**Body:** Brown mohair yarn

**Comments:** Also good in black and olive. Add a bead or a cone.

1. Wrap lead beginning at hook point to 2 eye lengths behind hook eye.
2. Lay a base of thread covering the hook shank and the lead wraps.
3. Tie in marabou above the hook barb. The tail should be the length of the hook shank.
4. Tie in mohair yarn above the hook barb.
5. Wrap mohair yarn forward to a point 1 hook eye behind the eye and tie off.
6. Wrap a thread head and tie off.
7. Use a bodkin or dubbing teaser to comb out the mohair.

### Fly (3) - Bead Head Prince Nymph



**Hook:** #8 to 16, 2XL (Demo size #12)

**Bead:** Gold bead.

**Tail:** Brown goose biots

**Rib:** Oval gold tinsel (I prefer gold or copper wire).

**Body:** 4 to 6 strands of peacock herl.

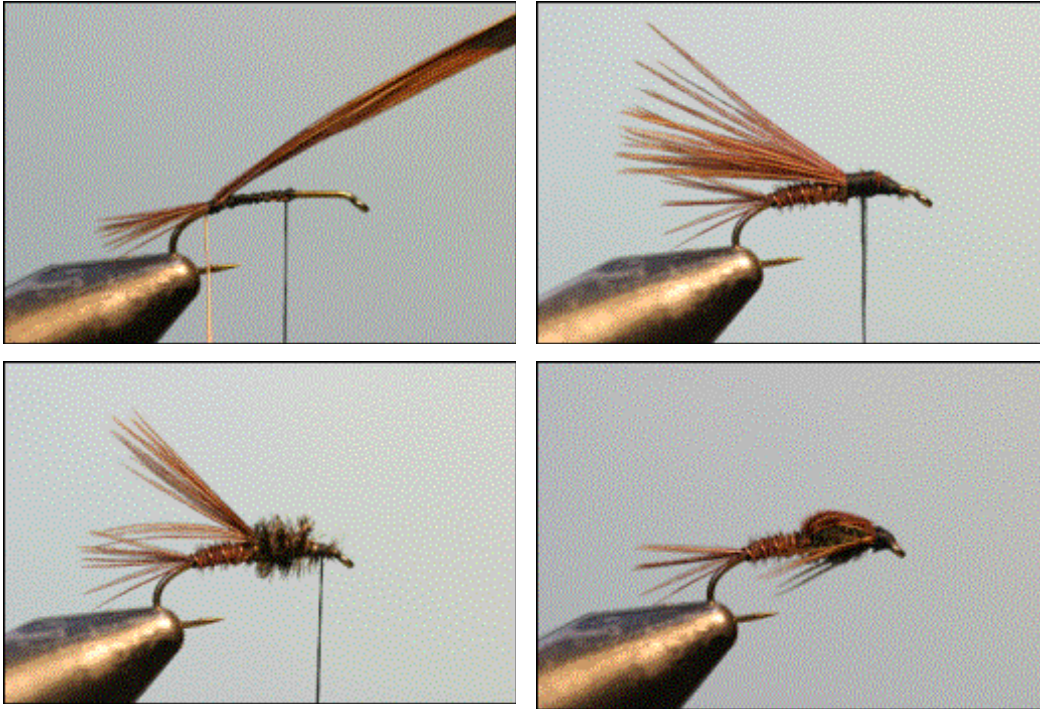
**Hackle:** Brown soft hackle.

**Wing:** White goose biots.

**Comments:** This is a great fly, with or without the bead.

1. Pinch down the barb of the hook and slide the bead on the hook (small hole toward the eye).
2. Wrap base of thread back to the barb and add 3 or 4 wraps to create a thread ball.
3. Tie in brown goose biots, about the length of the hook gap. Tied on opposite sides to flare out to form a "V".
4. Tie in gold wire.
5. Tie in 4 strands of peacock herl.
6. Wrap the peacock herl around the thread 6 to 8 times to form a chenille. Wrap the peacock chenille forward to just behind the bead and tie off.
7. Counter wind rib forward in 4 to 5 equally spaced spirals to behind the bead and tie off.
8. Tie in hackle by the butt just behind the bead. Wrap 3 to 4 wraps and tie off.
9. Tie in white goose biots on top to form a "V" (see photo). Tie thread off.

## Fly (4) - Pheasant Tail Nymph



**Hook:** #12 to 18, (Demo size #14)

**Tail:** Pheasant tail

**Rib:** Copper wire.

**Body:** Pheasant tail.

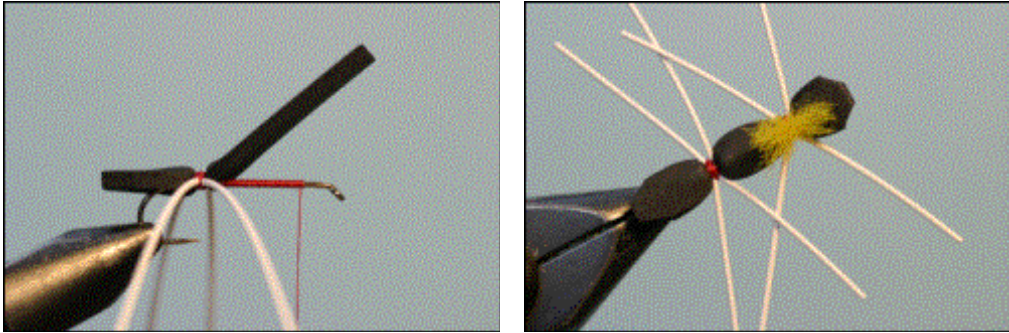
**Thorax:** Peacock herl.

**Wingcase and Legs:** Pheasant tail.

**Comments:** This is another great nymph, with or without a bead.

1. Wrap base of thread back to the barb.
2. Tie in pheasant tail, about the length of the hook gap.
3. Tie in copper wire.
4. Tie in 6 strands of pheasant tail.
5. Wrap the pheasant tail forward to 2/3 point and tie off.
6. Counter wind rib forward in 4 to 5 equally spaced spirals to the 2/3 point and tie off.
7. Tie in 12 pheasant tail barbs by the butt in front of the body. The length should be just less than the tail.
8. Tie in peacock herl, wrap around thread and wrap forward to 1 hook eye behind the eye.
9. Fold wing case forward, tie in with 3 to 4 thread wraps, fold back 3 or 4 fibers on each side to form the legs. Form head and tie off.

## Fly (5) - Chernobyl Ant



**Hook:** #6 to 12, 2XL or 3XL. (Demo size # 8)

**Thread:** Red 6/0

**Tail:** None.

**Body:** Thread wraps with an overbody of black foam.

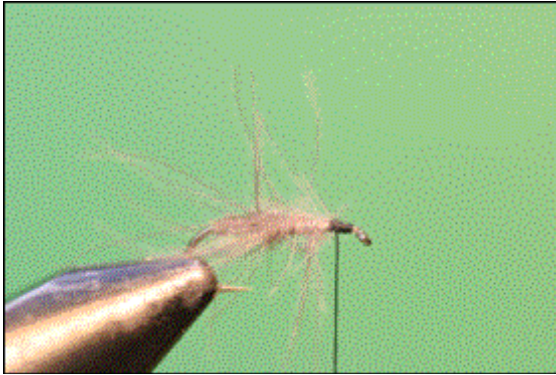
**Legs:** White round rubber.

**Indicator:** Yellow poly yarn or foam.

**Comments:** This fly is hard to see so an indicator is necessary.

1. Cut foam to size – width of hook gap and 2.5 times the hook length. Cut a blunt “V” at the butt end.
2. Wrap base of thread back to the hook point. Make sure the thread completely covers the hook.
3. Position the foam over the hook shank so it extends 1/3 of the hook length over the hook point.
4. Place and hold the foam on top and tie down at hook point with multiple wraps of thread to lock foam in place.
5. Tie in one set of legs on one side (V locked). Similarly tie in the other set of legs on the other side.
6. Lift the front of the foam out of the way and wrap the thread forward to  $\frac{3}{4}$  point.
7. Extend foam forward and tie down with multiple wraps.
8. Tie in front legs on one side (V locked). Similarly tie in the other set of legs on the other side.
9. Tie in indicator on top of front legs with 3 wraps of thread.
10. Lift front of foam and tie thread off.
11. Cut foam to length and shape.
12. Cut legs and indicator to proper length. Legs better longer than too short.

## Fly (6) - CDC & Elk



**Hook:** # 12 to 16 standard dry fly (Demo size #14)

**Tail:** None

**Body:** 1 natural dun CDC feather

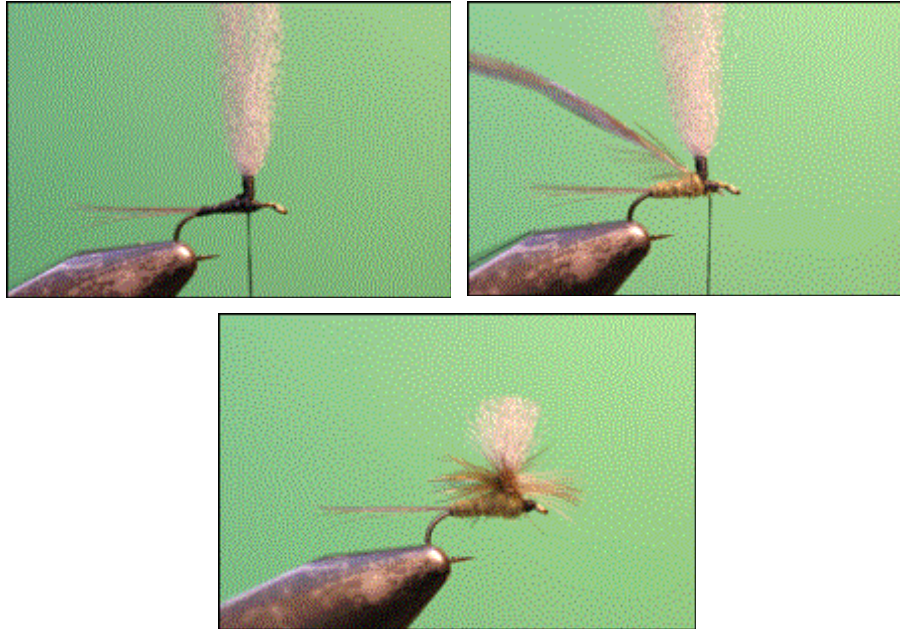
**Hackle:** None

**Wing and Head:** Elk hair (originator, Hans Weilenmann, now prefers deer hair)

**Comments:** A simple and very effective Caddis imitation for both emerger and adult stages. Body colours vary from grey to olive to tan. DO NOT USE FLY FLOATANT ON THIS FLY.

1. Wrap base of thread back to the barb.
2. Tie in CDC feather by the tip and wrap forward to 4/5 position. Tie off.
3. Stack elk hair and tie in on top using several wraps of thread, progressively tightening the wraps. Length extends beyond hook bend.
4. Lift butts of elk hair and tie off thread behind eye.
5. Trim elk butts even with the front of the hook.

## Fly (7) - Parachute Blue Winged Olive Mayfly



**Hook:** #10 to 24, standard dry fly (Demo size #14)

**Tail:** Dun hackle fibers or microfibettes

**Post:** Grey poly yarn

**Body:** Olive dubbing

**Hackle:** Dun

**Comments:** Other common body colours are grey and pale morning dun.

1. Wrap base of thread back to the barb.
2. Tie in hackle fibers, length of the hook.
3. Bring thread to  $\frac{3}{4}$  position and tie in post.
4. Stand post vertical and wrap the base of the post with thread.
5. Take thread to base of tail and dub in the body to the post. Dubbing is twisted tightly onto the thread (sparsely).
6. Tie in hackle on the opposite side of the hook, just in front of the post.
7. Add light dubbing to the thread and wind on behind the post and in front of the post to complete the body. Leave room to tie on a head (1 hook eye width).
8. Using hackle pliers, wind the hackle counter clockwise up the post thread wrap and back down, leaving the hackle pliers over the hook and hanging on the back side of the eye.
9. Tie off the thread by lifting the hackle fibers on the post up with the left hand, and tying the stem onto the shank just behind the eye.
10. Holding the parachute hackle up, wrap head and tie off.

**As in all good things, this course has come to pass.**

**Thank you for your attention**

**Dennis**