

OSPREY FLY BOX

STILLWATER CADDIS EMERGER

contributed by
John Hay

I first saw this fly pattern in the Kalamalka Fly Fishers excellent book of fly patterns and techniques, but subsequently found that Phil Rowley had previously described it in "STILLWATER SELECTIONS - A Collection of Proven Patterns". He attributes the pattern to Brian Chan.

One can vary both the hook size (10, 12 or 14) and the amount of deer hair used for the thorax and wing. The fly tied by Brian Chan as a caddis emerger has quite a heavy thorax and wing.



I use this fly when targeting fish taking either caddis or mayfly emergers.

When targeting fish that are taking mayflies, I use a smaller fly with a less bulky wing

I have used it successfully to catch fish that were taking emerging mayflies and others that were taking emerging caddis. It's been particularly effective on Fawn Lake the past two years. Rising fish, sipping emerging insects from the surface, leave tell-tale rings on water. Cast to the rings.

When trying to imitate an emerging mayfly, I usually give the fly a twitch soon after it has landed on the water. This may let the fish know that the fly is there, but, equally important, it allows me to identify the position of the fly, which is not always easy with a small fly at long range. After that I let it dead drift.

When imitating an emerging caddis, I usually give the fly a bit more movement via occasional, short, 1-2 inch strips.

In both cases, I only put floatant on the wing and thorax only, so that the body sinks and the fly sits across the surface film.

MATERIALS



| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Hook: | TMC 2487 Size #12 |
| Thread: | UTC 70 Denier - Olive |
| Tail: | White / Cream Antron |
| Body: | Antron dubbing - Light Olive / Dun |
| Rib: | Flashabou #6905 (Pearl) |
| Wing: | Deer Hair - Natural |
| Legs: | Brown Saddle Hackle |
| Head: | Thread |



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



- Debarb the hook.
- Build a thread base.
- Tie in a sparse antron tail. Should be about the length of the hook. This represents the shuck of the emerging caddis.
- Tie in a strand of pearl flashabou.



TYING INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*



- Wrap the thread back to the tie in point for the shuck. Spin the bobbin counterclock wise to “unwind” the thread. Split the thread with a bodkin. Insert a small amount of olive Antron Dubbing (*Rabbit Fur can also be used*)
- Spin the bobbin clockwise creating a thin dubbing noodle.

NOTE: For those with better skills than me, the touch dubbing method can be used to apply the dubbing to the thread.



- Wrap the dubbing noodle forward 2/3 of the way up the hook shank.



- Wrap the Pearl Flashabou forward as a rib. No more than 4 wraps.

- Clip a small amount of deer hair from a hide. Comb out the guard hairs and stack. Cut to a length of approximately two hook lengths.
- Tie in on top of the hook about leaving sufficient space for the head. Do not let any of the hairs wrap around the hook.



- Strip the fibres off one side of a brown saddle hackle. Tie the prepared saddle in with the fibres pointing down.
- Wrap the brown saddle hackle forward - five or six wraps. Do not go beyond the tie in point of the deer hair.



The Finished Fly

Stillwater Caddis Emerger

- Clip the hackle fibres off the top of the fly.
- Grab the deer hair by the tips and pull over the front of the fly.
- Make a few tight wraps securing the deer hair on top of the fly. Do not let any of the deer hair to creep around the hook shank. Move the thread in front of the deer hair.
- Lift the deer hair tips and build a thread head. Work the thread back against the deer hair “lifting” the wing away from the hook eye.
- Paint the thread with some head cement and whip finish.