

BALLOON CADDIS



Recipe

Hook..... Dry, size 12-14
Thread..... Tan, 6/0 or 8/0 or your color of choice
Body..... Dubbing, Tan/Ginger/Caddis green
Wing..... Elk or Deer hair
Thorax..... Dubbing, Tan/Ginger/Caddis green
Head..... Foam, 2mm or plastizote, color of choice

1. Place the hook in the vise and tie-in the thread behind the hook eye, then wrap a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Remove any thread tag. Let the thread hang.
2. Dub the thread and wrap it forward to a point about 1/3 of the hook shank behind the hook eye. Remove any excess dubbing and let the thread hang. Brush the dubbing to give it a slightly buggy appearance.
3. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of hair. Measure it to be a hook shank in length and tie it in by the butts on top of the hook shank at the front of the dubbed body to form a wing. Do not let the hair go down the sides of the fly. (It will be helpful if you pre-trim the hair butts to avoid creating a jumble of excess hair in front of the body.) The tail should project over hook bend by slightly less than a hook gap. Let the thread hang.
4. Now cut a 4"-5" length of foam about a half hook gap in width. Tie it in by one end on top of the hook shank at the front of the body with the length of the foam going out over the top of the hook eye. Keeping the foam on top of the hook shank, wrap over it with tight compression thread wraps forward to behind the hook eye. DO NOT CUT THE REMAINING FOAM. Let the thread hang.
5. Dub the thread and wrap a thorax between the back of the hook eye and the front of the wing. The thorax should be slightly thicker than the body. End the thorax with the thread in front of the wing. Remove any excess dubbing and let the thread hang.

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6. Grasp the foam in front of the hook eye and pull it back over the top of the thorax to the front of the wing where you left the thread and tie it down with several thread wraps forming a bullet style head. Be sure to pull the foam taut (not tight, or you'll break the foam) over the thorax before you tie it down.
7. Lift the remaining foam strip and cut it tight against the back of the bullet head.
8. Do a whip finish behind the bullet head and cut the thread. At your option, you can apply head cement to the thread wraps binding down the bullet head.