

GRAY FOX



Recipe

Hook.....Dry, size 10-14

Thread...Brown or tan 6/0 or 8/0

Wing.....Lemon wood duck fibers

Tail.....Dark ginger or brown hackle fibers

Rib.....Brown thread

Body.....Pale Red Fox fur or tan, pale yellow, or gray dubbing

Hackle...Grizzly and dark ginger or brown

Head.....Thread

Back.....Back of the fly can be colored with brown marker

1. Tie-in the thread about $\frac{1}{4}$ hook shank behind the hook eye and form a thread base for the wings. Let the thread hang $\frac{1}{4}$ hook shank behind the eye.
2. Select a wood duck feather and remove the fluff. Preen the barbs from the tip back toward the butt to align the barbs tips. Once the barbs tips are aligned, grasp a section and cut them from the stem to create a sizeable bunch (50-60 barbs). You may have to cut several bunches to get enough barbs. **Be sure to align the tips**, then gather them together into one bundle and take them in your fingertips and roll them softly to further consolidate the bundle. Now place the bundle on top of the hook shank with the tips pointing out over the hook eye and, using a pinch loop, tie them in on top of the hook shank $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hook shank behind the hook eye. **(The wing should equal the length of the hook shank from the front tip of the eye to the middle of the bend.)** Bind down the butt ends back to the middle of the hook shank. Trim the excess butts and return the thread to the wing tie-in point.
3. Carefully lift the bundle and make several tight thread wraps against the front edge of the bundle to make it stand upright. Now divide the wing bundle into two equal bunches using a bodkin and then pass the thread between them from front to back, crossing over the hook shank, then bringing the thread around the underside of hook and passing it forward between the wings in a figure-eight pattern. Make a second figure eight wrap. **If the wings are not sufficiently divided**, make **ONE** complete turn of thread around the base of the far wing bunch, then pass the thread under the hook shank and make

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ONE complete turn of thread around the near wing bunch. **(Be careful to not apply to much tension as this will flatten the wings.)** Now make several turns around the hook shank behind the wings and wrap the thread back to the hook bend.

4. Take several dark ginger hackle fibers (10-12), align their tips and tie them in on top of the hook shank at the hook bend as a tail. Wrap thread tightly over the butts back to the end of the wing butts forming a slightly tapered body. Trim off the excess hackle fiber butts. **(The tail should equal $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the hook shank.)** Wrap the thread back to the hook bend.
5. Tie-in a 3-4" length of brown 6/0 thread at the hook bend as rib material, then return the thread to over the hook bend. **(You can double the thread if it appears to be too thin.)**
6. Apply small amount of dubbing to the thread, then wrap the dubbed thread forward to slightly behind the wing, forming a tapered body.
7. Now wrap the thread rib forward in 5-6 equally spaced turns over the dubbed body and tie it off. Trim off the excess rib.
8. Select one appropriately sized grizzly hackle feather and one dark ginger or brown hackle feather and trim the fluff from their bases. Tie-in the hackle feathers at the end of the body with the bright side facing you and the tip pointing back toward the hook bend. Make several turns of thread to secure the hackles, trim the butt ends, then wrap the thread forward to one hook eye length behind the hook eye.
9. Grasp the tip of the grizzly hackle feather with hackle pliers and wrap it forward, making 2-3 turns behind the wings and 3-4 turns in front of the wings. Tie off the hackle and trim excess.
10. Repeat step 9 with the ginger or brown hackle feather.
11. Form a thread head, whip finish, and apply head cement.
12. The top of the body can be lightly colored with permanent brown marker, if desired.