

PARACHUTE HOPPER



Recipe

Hook.....Dry 2XL, size 8-14
Thread.....To match dubbing color, 6/0
Post.....White calf tail
Hackle.....Grizzly dry
Abdomen....Tan, yellow, or green dubbing
Wing.....Mottled turkey tail quill segment
Legs.....Knotted pheasant tail fibers
Thorax.....Tan, yellow or green dubbing

1. Tie-in thread behind the hook eye and wrap back $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hook shank. Let the thread hang.
2. Cut, measure, and clean a bundle of calf tail as a wing post. Place it in a stacker and align the tips. The post should be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times the hook gap in length. The thickness of the bundle of hair will vary with hook and should be about the same thickness as the outside hook eye or a bit larger. **(You can check the thickness of the bundle by twisting it 180 degrees and comparing it to the hook eye.)**
3. Holding the calf tail bundle on top of the hook shank with the tips facing out over the hook eye, tie it in with a couple of soft loops at the $\frac{1}{4}$ hook shank position where you left the thread. After ensuring the post is in the right position **(and holding the wing securely with your fingers)**, make several tight thread wraps over the butt ends to firmly bind them down. (This will be awkward but you will only need to hold the wing for the first 3-4 tight thread wraps.) Trim the butt ends of the hair at an angle, cover them with thread, then wrap the thread back to the front of the post. Pull the post upright and wrap the thread tightly against the front of the post to make it stand upright. Then wrap the thread around the base of the post to create a base for the hackle. Let the thread hang.
4. Now take a grizzly dry fly hackle feather **(hackle can be sized for one size larger than the hook)**, trim off the fluff **(be sure to leave about $\frac{1}{8}$ "of bare stem to tie it on with)**, Tie-in the hackle upright along the front edge of the post with several turns of thread. **(You should have the bottom edge of the hackle fibers at the same level as the top of the base that you created on the post.)** Leave the hackle feather standing upright along side the post and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook.

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5. Apply dubbing to the thread and wrap the dubbed thread forward to right behind the wing post, forming a slightly tapered body. Remove excess dubbing and let thread hang.
6. Now cut a segment of **treated** turkey quill feather about the width of the hook gap or slightly larger. (**Treated refers to the use of flexament or other adhesive on the feather to strengthen it and keep it from separating into individual fibers.**) Round the tip of the segment, lay it centered on top of the body behind the post (**the wing should measure from just beyond the outside of the hook bend to just behind the post**) and tie it in with several firm thread wraps right behind the post creating a smooth thread base for the legs. Trim off any excess turkey segment and move the thread to in front of the post.
7. Cut 8-10 long fibers from a cock pheasant tail. Align the tips of the fiber bunch, and, using a simple overhand knot, create a hopper style leg. (**Note: To tie an overhand knot in materials such as pheasant tail fibers, cross the tip end of the fiber over IN FRONT of the butt end of the fiber forming a loop. Insert a bobbin threader or set of forceps through the loop from the back side and catch the butt ends of the fibers and pull them through the loop. Then release the fibers from the forceps and holding the tip and butt sections of the fibers, pull them gently to form a knot. It is recommended that the fibers then be Treated with flexament, etc, to strengthen them. A second leg can be formed the same way, ONLY THIS TIME CROSS THE TIP END UNDER THE BUTT END and pull the tip end through the loop. This is important so that the legs will each lay against the hopper body rather that splay out from the body.**)
8. Now place one hopper leg on the near side of the hopper body behind the post and tie it in. (The knot (knee) in the leg should be positioned so that it is slightly behind the bend of the hook.) The leg should angle upward toward the end of the body. Repeat his process for the far leg. Keep all the tie-in wraps for leg in one place slightly behind the post. Trim off excess leg butt material. You can also trim the tip end of the leg to length, if needed.
9. Grasp the tip of the hackle feather, wrap it **counter-clockwise** down the post over the thread wraps (**4-6 wraps are sufficient**) to the hook shank, and then tie it off against the hook shank just at the bottom of the post.
10. Now apply a **small** amount of dubbing to the thread and dub behind and in front of the wing post (to cover the leg tie-in thread wraps) to behind the hook eye. (You can avoid tying down the hackle fibers of your wing by simply grasping the wing and post and bending them back over the hook shank out of the way.)
11. Remove the excess dubbing, form a thread head, whip finish, cut the thread, and Apply head cement. (In forming the thread head, you will find that you will be wrapping the thread over the dubbing to a small extent—that is just fine.)

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