

TENKARA MARCH BROWN EMERGER



Recipe

Hook.....Dry, Size 10-16

Thread.....Red, Brown, or Black, 6/0 or 8/0

Wing.....Mallard flank feather, Natural or Dyed Wood Duck

Hackle.....Dry: Furnace, Brown, or Cree

Body.....Goose or Turkey biot

Thorax.....Hare's Ear dubbing

Tenkara is a style of fly fishing popular in Japan where you use a long pole, fixed length line, leader, and a fly. Tenkara flies are easy to tie with the simplest consisting of only a hook, thread, and hackle. A predominant feature of tenkara flies is "funnel" shaped hackling. This style of hackling allows the hook to sit on the water standing upright, making it easy to see. This style of tying can be used with most dry fly patterns.

1. Place the hook in the vise and tie-in the thread behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread 1/4 of the way down the hook shank, then reverse direction and wrap the thread back to behind the hook eye creating a solid thread base. Form a small thread head. Let the thread hang.
2. Select a mallard feather and strip off the fluff at its base, then stroke down 15-20 fibers on each side of the quill. Cut off the quill above the fibers that are stroked down and remove it, then stroke the remaining fibers back up. This should leave you with a "V" shaped feather.
3. Tie-in the prepared feather, curved side up and projecting out over the hook eye, on top of the hook shank right behind the thread head with 2-3 loose wraps. Grasp the feather butt and pull it back until the feather fiber wing is the length of the hook shank, then make several tight thread wraps over the butts. **Ensure that the feather fibers stay on top of the hook shank.** Trim off any excess butts at an angle even with the end of the thread base you originally laid down. Now wrap the thread down the hook shank slightly past the hook bend, then reverse direction and wrap it back to the wing tie-in point, forming an even thread base. Let the thread hang.

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4. Select a hackle feather with barbs the length of the hook shank. Strip the fluff off the base of the feather and tie it in, concave side toward the hook shank and with the tip going out over the hook eye, tight behind the wing. Grasp the tip of the feather and make 3-4 touching wraps back toward the hook bend, then tie it off and remove any excess. **Be sure to stroke the fibers forward over the hook eye with each wrap.** Wrap the thread forward slightly over the base of the fibers to make them all lean forward over the hook eye, then wrap the thread back to the hook bend. Let the thread hang.
5. Select a long biot feather and tie it in by the tip at the hook bend (a little bit of the thread base should be allowed to show as a tag). *The concave side of the biot should be up with the "furry" ridge side toward the hook bend.* Wrap the thread up the hook shank to the base of the hackle and let it hang. **(Ensure that the thread base between the hook bend and the hackle is even. If not, use thread wraps to even it. Any bumps will show under the biot body.)** Now grasp the biot and wrap it in **touching turns** up the hook shank to behind the hackle and tie it off. Trim off any excess biot. Let the thread hang.
6. Dub the thread lightly and wrap a small, bushy thorax right behind the hackle, finishing with the thread at the base of the hackle between the hackle and the thorax. Do a whip finish right behind the hackle and cut the thread. *(At your option, apply superglue lightly to the thread before doing the whip finish.)*