

BLACK QUILL



Recipe

Hook.....Wet, size 10 - 16

Thread...Black 6/0 or 8/0

Tail.....Black hen hackle barbs

Body.....Stripped peacock quill

Wings....Black duck quill segments

Hackle...Black hen hackle

Head.....Thread

1. Tie-in the thread behind the hook eye and form a thread base wrapping back to the hook bend.
2. Align and cut 8-10 black hackle barbs from a hen hackle feather. Using a pinch wrap, tie them in at the hook bend on top of the hook. **Do not cut off the excess hackle butts. (The tail should be the length of the hook gap.)** Check the alignment of the tail. The fibers should be on top of the hook shank and in line with it. Now bind the fiber butts down along the top of the hook shank to a point slightly behind the hook eye, forming a smooth underbody. Clip off any remaining excess butts and wrap the thread **(make sure it is flattened)** back to the tail.
3. Now take a peacock quill and strip the flue (fibers) off by stroking in one direction using a pencil eraser. **Use moderately light strokes of the eraser to avoid breaking the quill.** Then turn the quill over and remove the flue from the other side. Once the quill is stripped and smooth, cut off the weak tip portion of the quill. The quill is now ready.
4. Using flattened thread, tie-in the tip of the prepared quill at the tail tie-in point. Now wrap the quill, passing the quill from hand to hand as you wrap it to a point 1/8 of the hook shank behind the hook eye. The first wrap of the quill should conceal the rearmost thread wrap and each succeeding wrap should be directly next to the previous one without overlapping it. When you reach the tie-off point behind the hook eye, tie-off the quill, remove any excess, and form a small, smooth, tapering thread foundation ahead of the quill. This will help in mounting the wings.

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5. At this time, coat the quill body with head cement, super glue, or clear nail polish, and let it dry. Avoid getting any cement on the tail. Position the thread in front of the quill body.
6. Now take a matched pair of duck wing feathers and cut a section one hook gap in width from each feather. Be sure to cut the section of barbs close to the feather stem. If one section is wider than the other, peel away one barb at a time until the sections are identical in width. Hold the sections in your right hand so that the tips are aligned and the sections **curve toward** one another. Transfer the sections to your left hand, pinching the tips together so that they stay aligned. Then with the right fingers, pinch the sections together at the base, keeping the tips aligned. Now measure the wing sections for length (**the wing should extend back to the rearmost point of the hook bend**). Orient the sections so that the feather tips sweep upward and transfer the sections to your left fingers at the correct length. Use a very firm **pinch wrap** to mount the wing sections on top of the hook shank at the tie-in point in front of the body. (**Be sure to maintain a firm pinch on the wing sections throughout the mounting process or they will slip out of position.**). Thread pressure should collapse the section barbs straight down, making flat, panel-like wings. Maintaining the pinch on the sections, bind down the wing butts toward the hook eye. Now you can release the pinch you have on the wing sections and trim the excess butts at an angle tapering toward the hook eye. Return the thread to the base of the wings but be careful to avoid wrapping back onto the wing itself as this will distort the wing.
7. Select 10-15 hackle barbs and mount them underneath the hook shank as a beard. The barbs should extend back to the tip of the hook. Trim the hackle butts and, using flattened thread, bind down the wing and hackle butts, forming a neat head.
8. Whip finish the head, clip the thread, and apply head cement.

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