

CRACKLEBACK DRY/WET FLY



Recipe

Hook Size # 10-18 dry fly hook

Thread 8/0 Danville, black or color to match body

Shellback..... 2-3 peacock herls

Body..... A slip of 6 barbules of dyed turkey "rounds" - usually olive or pale yellow

Hackle..... "Furnace" neck or saddle hackle (has the black band down the middle) to match the hook size;

Weight Bead head (optional)

Ribbing Medium or fine gold wire (optional)

1. Mash down the hook barb and mount the hook in the vise. Tie-in the thread slightly behind hook eye and wrap the thread back to the bend. (If using a bead, place it on the hook after mashing the barb. Slide the bead forward to right behind the hook eye, then tie-in the thread right behind the bead and build a thread dam to hold the bead in place before wrapping the thread back to the hook bend.)
2. Select a furnace hackle, trim off the fluff, and tie it in by the base at the beginning of the hook bend. **(The dull side of the feather should be facing you.)** Remove any excess feather butt. Let the thread hang.
3. Now tie-in 2-3 peacock herls by the tips at the hook bend on top of the hook shank. **(If used, tie-in the wire rib (optional) at the same point as the herl.)** Also tie-in a slip of turkey feather barbules by the tips on top of the hook shank at the same point as the herl.
4. Wrap the thread forward to slightly behind the hook eye (or bead head, if using) covering the excess tips of the turkey barbs, peacock herl, and rib butt, then double back over the front half of the body to lend some bulk in the thorax region.
5. Palmer the turkey barbules forward to behind the hook eye and tie them off with 2-3 wraps of thread. Trim off the excess barbules and let the thread hang.

Over....>

6. Pull the peacock herls over the top of the body parallel to each other and tie them off behind the hook eye. Trim off the excess herl and let the thread hang.
7. Now palmer the furnace hackle forward with a 2mm space between wraps to behind the hook eye. Tie off the hackle with thread and trim off the excess hackle. (If using a wire rib, wrap it forward with reverse wraps leaving 2mm between wraps, and tie it off behind the hook eye. Trim off the excess rib.)
8. Wrap a small thread head and tie off with 2-3 half hitches or a whipfinish. Cut the thread "tight to the wraps" and apply head cement.

Note: Fish this fly across stream and up - dead-drift as a dry fly until drag begins as the fly drifts below you, then pull fly under and impart 6-15 in. strips in a rhythmic pattern as the fly swings across the current. Fish as a dry fly on still water - you may consider using a small nymph or soft hackle dropper one foot below the fly. The use of a bead head Crackleback will get the fly deep if the trout are deep. Also use either a lead shot above the fly, sink tip line, or full sinking line. The wire rib imparts great durability to this fly.

Over....>