

HARE'S EAR SOFT HACKLE



Recipe

Hook.....Dry or curved caddis, size 10 - 14

Thread.....Black or Brown 6/0

Tail.....Lemon Wood Duck

Rib.....Gold wire or oval tinsel

Body.....Hare's Ear dubbing, squirrel or natural fur

Hackle.....Natural partridge or brown hen hackle

Head.....Thread

1. Tie-in the thread behind the eye and wrap a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Remove the thread tag and let the thread hang.
2. Select a wood duck feather, remove the fluff from its base, and stroke the fibers perpendicular to the stem to roughly align the tips. Cut 8-10 fibers from the stem and tie them in tightly by their butts at the hook bend as a tail. The tail should be the length of the hook shank. Wrap over the butts to the middle of the hook shank, then remove any excess butts and wrap the thread forward to slightly behind the hook eye.
3. Cut a 3"-4" piece of wire for a rib and tie it in by one end slightly behind the hook eye, then, keeping it on the near side of the hook shank, wrap thread over it back to the hook bend. The length of the wire should extend back over the hook bend. The thread should be at the hook bend.
4. Dub the thread and wrap a tapered body forward to slightly behind the hook eye. Remove any excess dubbing and let the thread hang
5. Grasp the wire ribbing and palmer it forward over the dubbed body to the front of the body and tie it off. Remove any excess ribbing.
6. Select an appropriately sized hackle feather (*the barbs should be long enough to reach from the hook eye back to the hook point*) and remove the fluff from its base. Tie the feather in by its **butt end**, concave side down, tight against the front of the body, then

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wrap it forward for 2-3 touching turns and tie it off behind the hook eye. *(It is suggested that you stroke the barbs back following each wrap of the hackle to avoid tying down any barbs.)* Remove any excess feather. Stroke the wrapped barbs back toward the hook bend and build a small thread head behind the hook eye. **(Wrap the thread tight against and slightly onto the hackle barbs to ensure that the barbs lean back over the thorax.)**

7. Whip finish the head and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the thread head.