

MERCER'S MISSING LINK



Recipe

Hook..... Dry, size 12-18
Thread..... Olive 6/0
Rib..... Pearl Flashabou Accent
Thorax..... SLF Prism dubbing, peacock
Spent wings.. Gray or tan Antron/Z-Ion
Hackle..... Ginger, Cree, Brown, Grizzly
Overwing..... Natural deer/elk hair
Head..... Thread
Adhesive..... Head cement

1. Place the hook in the vise and attach the thread about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way down the hook shank, then take several wraps toward the hook bend. Remove the thread tag and let the thread hang.
2. Cut a **single strand** of ribbing and tie it in by one end where you left the thread. Take tight touching turns over it back to slightly down the hook bend, then reverse thread direction and wrap tight touching turns back to about where you originally tied in the thread. Let the thread hang.
3. Grasp the ribbing material and palmer it forward over the thread body to where you left the thread and tie it down with a few tight thread wraps. Remove any excess ribbing. Let the thread hang.
4. For durability, coat the body and rib with a light coat of clear nail polish, head cement, or UV resin and let it dry before continuing.
5. Dub the thread to create a thin dubbing noodle, then tie a small dubbing ball at the front of the body as a small thorax and tie it off. Remove any excess dubbing.
6. Cut a 3" piece of spent wing material and tie it in on top of the hook shank by its middle directly in front of the dubbing ball thorax. Tie it in so that there is one wing on **each**

Over...>

side of the thorax pointing back and slightly downward. DO NOT TRIM THE SPENT WINGS AT THIS TIME. End with the thread right in front of the spent wings tie in point and let the thread hang.

7. Select an appropriately sized hackle feather and trim off the fluff at its base. Tie it in on the near side of the hook shank right in front of the spent wings tie in point. Tie it down with the concave side facing the hook shank. The tip of the feather should be pointing toward the hook bend. Let the thread hang.
8. Cut and clean and stack a ¼ pencil diameter clump of deer/elk hair to use as an **overwing**. Measure the hair so that the tips reach back to the hook bend and tie it in on top of the hook shank directly in front of the spent wings with several tight thread wraps. Lift up the hair butts and take several thread wraps in front of them to make the butts stand up.
9. Now pull the hair wing and butts upward, then grasp the hackle feather and take several wraps with it counter clockwise around the base of the wing and butts (similarly to creating a post for a parachute) and tie it off in front of the wing behind the hook eye. Do a whip finish and cut the thread.
10. Separate and pull together the **butts** of the overwing and trim them short similarly to a caddis head.
11. Grasp the underwings and trim them even with the back of the hook bend.