

MOSQUITO DRY



Recipe

Hook.....Dry, size 12 - 18

Thread.....Black 6/0

Wing.....Grizzly hen hackle tips

Tail.....Grizzly hackle fibers

Body.....Moose mane, quill style

Hackle.....Grizzly

Head..... Thread

1. Tie-in thread behind hook eye and wrap back toward bend approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hook shank. Let the thread hang.
2. Select two grizzly hen hackle feathers and remove fluff. The wing should be the length of the hook shank. Size the wings by preening back or removing barbs until it is the correct size. Pair the wings together and hold them at the tie-in point on top of the hook shank with the tips pointing out over the hook eye. Holding the wings tightly, make a turn of thread over the wing tips at the mounting point and pull the thread tight, using the index finger of your left hand as a "backstop" to keep the wings from rolling to the side. **Make sure this first wrap of thread is taken over the stems directly below the lowermost barbs on the wings.** Make 3 additional tight wraps of thread over the mounting thread, again using your index finger to ensure the wings do not roll off the top of the hook shank. Now make 4-5 additional thread wraps over the wings stems going back toward the hook bend. Remove the excess wing stem and wrap the thread back to the wing base, binding the stems down securely.
3. Now lift the wings to a vertical position and make several tight thread wraps against the front of the wing stems to hold them in position. (You may have to build a small "ramp" in front of the wings to accomplish this - but use as few thread wraps as possible.) Once the wings are upright, make a figure 8 wrap going through the center of the wings tight against the wing stems to spread them. Wrap the thread back to over the hook barb.

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4. Select a grizzly hackle feather and remove the fluff. Preen the barbs back toward the feather stem to align the barb tips. Once they're aligned, remove 10-12 barbs and tie them in on top the hook shank over the hook barb. Keeping the butt ends on top of the hook shank, wrap them down back to where they meet the butt ends of the wing. Remove the excess tail butts, flatten the thread, and wrap the thread back to over the hook barb creating a smooth underbody between the wing and tail.
5. Using **flattened thread**, tie - in over the hook barb a prepared (**moistened by soaking in water for a few minutes to add flexibility**) moose mane fiber by its tip. (**Don't tie it in on the very tip as it is too fragile, rather tie it in a short way up the fiber from the point.**) Wrap the flattened thread forward to slightly behind the wings, ensuring that the underbody of the abdomen is smooth.
6. Now grasp the moose mane fiber and wrap it up the hook shank placing the wraps precisely adjacent to each other. **The first wrap of moose mane fiber should be toward the rear of the hook and then under the hook shank.** After this first turn, the moose mane fiber should be angled toward the hook eye, in just the right position to continue wrapping up the hook shank. **Maintain a firm and consistent tension on the stem while wrapping.** Wrap the moose mane up to slightly behind the wings, tie it off, and remove any excess. (**If the first moose mane fiber is too short, tie it off, remove any excess, then tie-in a second fiber at the end of the first fiber and continue wrapping up the hook shank to the tie off point.**)
7. Select a suitable grizzly hackle feather and remove the fluff. Tie the feather in by the butt at the end of moose mane body, remove any excess butt, then make 3-4 turns of hackle around the hook shank behind the wings, then 2-3 wraps in front of the wing and tie off.
8. Create a small thread head, whip finish, cut the thread, and apply head cement.

Note: It is strongly recommended that the moose mane body be coated with head cement, super glue, Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails, or similar type material to strengthen and reinforce the body.

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