

## QUILL GORDON WET



### Recipe

Hook.....Wet, size 10 – 16

Thread.....Black 6/0

Tail.....Med blue dun hackle fibers

Body.....Stripped peacock herl

Hackle.....Med Blue dun

Wing.....Lemon wood duck flank fibers

Head.....Thread

1. Tie-in thread behind hook eye and wrap back to bend making a good thread base. Let the thread hang.
2. Select a med blue dun hackle feathers and remove fluff. Holding the tip, preen the barbs back toward the feather butt to separate the barbs and align their ends. With the ends aligned, cut 15-20 barbs off the stem as a tail, and tie them on top of hook shank above the hook barb using **flattened thread**. The tail should be the length of the hook shank. Making tight wraps, bind down the butt ends on top of the hook shank up to slightly behind the hook eye. Trim the excess butt ends and return thread to over the hook barb. **Use the flattened thread to make as smooth a thread underbody as possible.**
3. Select a long peacock herl from an eye feather or from a sword feather and remove the barbules from the stem. Place the stem in water for a few minutes to make it more pliable.
4. Using **flattened thread**, tie the herl in by the tip on top of the hook shank over the hook barb using only 1-2 wraps. **(Note: The herl should be at a 45 degree angle to the hook shank. Also, do not tie-in right on the tip but slightly up the stem from the tip - this is to avoid using the fragile tip which is prone to breaking while being wrapped.)** Wrap flattened thread over the excess tip, making a smooth underbody. Continue wrapping the thread up to about 2-3 hook eye widths behind the hook eye. Let the thread hang.

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5. Now grasp the herl stem and wrap it up the hook shank placing the wraps precisely adjacent to each other. **The first wrap of herl stem should be toward the rear of the hook and then under the hook shank.** After this first turn, the herl stem 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 herl stem up to 2-3 hook eye lengths behind the hook eye, tie it off, and remove any excess herl stem. If the first herl stem is too short, tie it off, remove any excess stem, then tie-on a second stem in the same manner as the first and continue wrapping up the hook shank to the tie off point.
6. Select a suitable dun feather and remove the fluff. Holding the tip, preen the barbs toward the butt end of the feather. Tie the feather in by the tip at the end of herl body, remove any excess tip, then make 1-2 turns of hackle around the hook shank, stroking the barbs back over the body as you wrap, and tie off. Remove any excess hackle. Now stroke the hackle fibers down the sides of hook shank and under the hook shank and hold them there. Make a few thread turns over the butt ends of the barbs to help keep these fibers in this position. **This hackle “beard” should reach back under the hook shank no further than just past the hook point.**
7. Select a wood duck feather and remove the fluff. Holding the tip, preen the barbs back toward the feather butt to align the barb tips. Once roughly aligned, grasp a section of the barbs and cut them off at the stem. Continue doing this until you have a bunch about half the size of a pencil shaft. Ensure the tips are aligned as well as possible.
8. Take this bunch, and, using the “pinch”, hold it on top of the hook shank in front of the hackle and tie it down with 2-3 soft loops. Trim the butts at an angle behind the hook eye and remove the excess. Using tight thread wraps, wrap over the butt ends of the wing fibers creating a neat thread head.
9. Whip finish, cut the thread, and apply head cement.

**Note:** Because herl stem is so soft and breakable, it is strongly recommended that the herl stem body be coated with head cement, CA glue, Sally Hansen’s Hard as Nails, or similar type material to strengthen and reinforce the body.