

SHENK'S LETORT CRICKET



Recipe

Hook.....Dry 2XL, size 10-18

Thread.....Black 6/0

Body.....Black Fine & Dry dubbing

Underwing.....Black goose quill segment

Wing/Head....Black deer hair

1. Tie-in the thread at mid hook shank and wrap it down the hook shank to over the hook barb.
2. Dub the thread and wrap it forward to about 1/4 of the hook shank behind the hook eye, forming a body that is tapered at both ends and thick in the middle (*think of a thin football shape*). Finish with the thread at the front of the body.
3. Treat a black goose feather with fixament and allow it to dry, then cut out a segment approximately 1/4" wide to be an underwing. Trim the tip of the segment into a broad "V" shape with the point going forward. Lightly fold the segment in half and tie it in at the front of the body with the tip pointing toward the hook bend. **Wrap the thread back onto the body slightly so that it lays flat.** This underwing should be on top of the body and should be long enough to reach slightly past the hook bend. Trim off any excess underwing butt and let the thread hang.
4. Now cut, clean, and stack a large clump of deer hair that is about two pencil diameters thick. Holding the clump tightly so that it does not spin (**but you can let the hair come down the sides of the hook shank slightly**), tie it in tightly on top of the hook shank tight against the front of the underwing. This hair wing should be long enough to reach just past the tip of the underwing. (*When you measure the wing prior to tying it in, it is helpful to pre-trim the butts so that they do not extend past the hook eye*). **Do not let loose of the hair as the butts flair to form a head.** After tying in the hair, make 2-3 additional wraps **through** the hair butts, then release the hair. **Remember, you do not want the hair to spin but just slightly come down the sides of the body.** Lift the hair butts and make a whip finish right behind the hook eye. Cut the thread.
5. Take the fly out of the vise and trim the hair straight on the bottom, being careful not to cut too close. Then trim the hair butts flat on the top and rounded on the sides to make a flat, barrel shaped head. (**See the picture**) Be careful to not cut the hair wing.