

ZOO COUGAR



Recipe

Hook.....TMC 300, size 2-8

Thread.....Tan 6/0

Tail.....Marabou, yellow

Body.....Sparkle Braid, pearl

Underwing.....Calf Tail, white

Wing.....Two matched Mallard Flank Feathers, dyed Wood Duck

Head.....Yellow or Olive deer hair

1. Place the hook in the vise and tie the thread in about 1/4 of the hook shank behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Then wrap the thread back to the tie-in point and then back to the hook bend again creating a crosshatched thread base.
2. Take a marabou feather and stroke the fibers upward, measure it to about 1/2 a hook shank length, and tie-it in at the hook bend as a tail. Lift the marabou butts and wrap the thread forward to the thread tie-in point.
3. Now lay the marabou butts flat on top of the hook shank and wrap thread over them back to tail, then reverse direction and wrap the thread forward again to the original thread tie-in point. (*The idea here is to create an even under base for the body.*) Trim off any excess marabou. The thread should be at its original tie-in point.
4. Tie-in a 4"-6" piece of Sparkle Braid by one end where you left the thread and, with the length of it going toward the hook bend and laying on top of the hook shank, wrap the thread over it back to tail, then return the thread to the original thread tie-in point. Let the thread hang.
5. Grasp the Sparkle Braid and wrap it forward in tight touching turns to the original thread tie-in point and tie it off. Remove any excess braid.
6. Cut and clean a clump of long calf tail. Measure the clump so that it reaches from its tie-in point at the front of the body back to the middle of the tail, then tie it in at the front of the body with several tight thread wraps. Trim off the butt ends of the hair as squarely as possible in front of the body.

Over....>

7. Select 2 large matched mallard flank feathers and strip the fluff off their bases. Stack them on top of each other with their tips touching and both curving down (concave sides down) so that they make one unit. Measure them so that their tips reach to the middle of the tail and tie them in with several tight thread wraps on top of the underwing at the same point where the underwing was tied-in. Do a whip finish on top of the feather tie-in wraps. Trim off the feather butts squarely with the underwing butts. *(At this point it is suggested that you add head cement or superglue to the tie down wraps to keep everything secure.)* The thread should be at the front of the wing.
8. Cut, clean, and stack a large clump of deer hair. Lay it on top of the hook shank at the front of the wing with the tips extending back to the middle of the wing and make 3 soft turns of thread around it on top of one another. Hold on to the hair butts as you do this to keep the hair in place. Now pull straight down firmly on the thread and loosen your hold on the hair, allowing it **to spin** around the hook shank. Once the hair quits turning, make several thread wraps through the butts to the front of the hair butts. Draw the hair butts back and take several thread turns in front of them. Let the thread hang.
9. Cut, clean, and stack another clump of hair and, placing it tight against the front of the first bunch of hair, make three wraps of thread around it and spin it in front of the first bunch of hair. Work the thread through the hair butts as you did in step 6, pulling the hair butts back and making several tight thread wraps in front of the hair. Do a whip finish behind the hook eye and cut the thread. (If necessary to fill the hook shank, spin another smaller bunch of hair in front of the second bunch, before you do a whip finish.)
10. Take the hook out of the vise, and, using a double edged razor blade or scissors, trim the bottom of the fly flat except for the tips. **DO NOT TRIM OFF THE TIPS OF THE HAIR ON THE BOTTOM OR TOP OF THE FLY**, but leave them as a collar.
11. Turn the fly over and bend the razor blade into an arc. Push the blade from the hook eye upward to the hair tips (collar), cutting a rounded head shape into the hair.
12. Now use scissors to finish creating a neat rounded head (see picture).

Note: Use great care when using the razor blade as blood does nothing to enhance the fly!!!

Note: We purposely did not pack the spun deer hair as the fly's creator, Kelly Galloup, believes that leaving the hair unpacked allows the head to move more water on the retrieve and also allows it to dry more quickly.