



Parachute Adams

Submitted by Jeff McElravy

Hook: Standard dry fly, sizes 10 to 20 with **14** & **16** most common, TMC 101

Thread: 6/0 to 10/0, 140 to 35 denier, **black**, gray, brown, or rusty dun.

Wing post: **White** or bright **calf tail** (yellow, orange, etc), Hi-vis, Poly yarn, Zelon, or foam.

Indicator: If used, bright florescent Zelon or Hi-vis in yellow, orange, pink, or black.

Tail: **Grizzly and brown hackle fibers mixed**, moose hair. For a shuck style, brown poly yarn or Zelon.

Butt: spot of **Yellow** (Orange, Green) dubbing or floss for “Female Adams.” Not used with Shuck.

Body: **Muskrat back fur dubbing**, gray Super Fine, Antron, or poly yarn

Hackle: **Grizzly and brown**, Cree, or just grizzly.

Bold letters shows the classic standard. Underline shows what I am using.

This is a style of tying a fly. You can change the materials and/or colors of the tail, body, and hackle to change any traditional Catskill fly to a parachute style fly.

Instructions:

1. Debarb and dress the hook.
2. At the 1/5 to 1/3 mark, tie in the post material (Zelon or Poly yarn in this case). Tie in on top, the indicator material. Raise the materials and bind them together starting your thread wraps as close to the hook shank as you can. Tightly wrap your thread up the post with 8 to 10 touching turns. Wrap back down the post to the hook shank. Place wraps in front and behind the post.
3. Using open wraps, advance the thread to above the barb. (Standard tie-in point for the tail). Using the pinch method tie in either the Zelon shuck or tailing feather barbs.
4. Dub the body and head of the fly, ending with the thread behind the post. Start with a little ball of yellow, green, or orange dubbing or floss for a “female” Adams.

5. Prepare the hackle feather. Tie it onto the shank and post with about 1/16 inch of bare stem above the previously bound area. Wrap the thread back down the post to the hook shank.
6. Turn the vise with the fly pointing to you and rotate it 90 degrees with the post horizontal if you can, or alternately, remount the hook down with the post horizontal. The thread should be behind the post by the hook shank.
7. Wrap the hackle down the post using touching turns (3 to 5) and bind it off on the post with tightly wrapped thread. Cut the excess hackle. Whip finish on the post with tightly wrapped thread. The curve of the hackle can be **down** if you want the fly to float high or **up** if you want the fly to set deeper in the film of the water. The reason for the bare stem of hackle is so that you can control which way the curve is placed.
8. Cut the length of the post off to 1 to 2 times the hook gape.
9. Cement if you choose.

Species caught: trout

References:

Dave Hughes, *Essential Trout Flies*, Stackpole Books, 2000
Randall Kaufmann, *Tying Dry Flies, Third Edition*, Western Fisherman's Press, 2001
L. J. DeCuir, *Southeastern Flies*, Menasha Ridge Press, 2000
Roger Lowe, *Roger Lowe's Fly Pattern Guide to the Great Smoky Mountains*, 2005