



SOFT HACKLE WET FLY

Submitted by Bob Gustafson

(Partridge & Orange/Yellow/Red/Chartreuse etc.)

Tying Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3906 or equivalent, sizes 12-16

Thread: 6/0

Hackle: light gray partridge feather from shoulder area

Thorax: Rabbit Dubbing

Tying Instructions:

1. Tie in thread about 4 wraps behind hook eye.
2. Prepare a partridge feather by stripping away the webby feather portions, leaving barbs that are 2X the hook gap.
3. Tie in feather with stem pointing away from the hook eye and dull side (inside) of feather facing you. Tie to midpoint of hook shank and trim away feather stem.
4. Continue wrapping the thread toward the bend of the hook to form the abdomen, then wrap back to about 1/8 of the shank length from the hook eye.
5. Using the direct dubbing method, tie in a thorax of rabbit dubbing, ending about 2 thread wraps behind the hackle tie-in point. Leave the thread in front of the thorax.
6. Clip the feather in hackle pliers, raise it vertically so that the dull side faces the hook bend, then take two wraps rearward.
7. Wrap thread once or twice over the feather tip, then go forward through the hackle barbs wiggling the thread to avoid trapping hackle barbs and wrap 2 times in front of the hackle.
8. Clip the feather tip.

9. Whip finish a head and apply head cement.

Comments: This is a very effective fly pattern for both trout and bluegill. This is my “confidence” fly, responsible for 90% of the trout I have caught, usually fished by swinging across the current downstream. Most of the strikes occur at the end of the swing drift, when the fly gets picked up by the current and appears to the fish to be rising. It is equally effective for bluegill, fished under an indicator or as a dropper fly or slowly stripped.

Species caught: bluegill, brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout