



Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis  
Submitted by Jeff McElravy

### Materials

**Hook:** Standard dry fly with down eye, Sizes #10 to #20, **#12 and #14**, TMC 100

**Thread:** 6/0 or 140 Denier, Color to match body. (*UTC is good for this fly.*)

**Rib:** Fine gold wire (*or other color, you may use thread*)

**Abdomen:** Natural fur or Synthetic dubbing. (*Olive, tan, yellow, and orange most common.*)

**Hackle:** Rooster hackle, no more that 1 ½ times the gap. (*smaller may be better*)

**Wing:** Natural or dyed Elk or Deer hair.

### Tying Instructions

1. Start thread about three eye widths behind eye and run thread base back to tie in point.
2. Bind in the rib material.
3. Dub the abdomen thicker than you would for a may fly. Caddis flies have a bigger body. Taper from thicker at the bend to smaller towards the eye. Stop where you started the thread.
4. Tie in the rooster hackle at the start of the thread (shiny side forward) and palmer back to the end of the dubbing. The palmering should be even spacing. (*Wrap this feather over the top away to facilitate counter wrapping the rib.*)
5. Hold the hackle straight up and bind it with two wraps over the top with the rib. Counter wrap the rib back to the start of the dubbing and bind off with the thread. (*The main purpose of the rib is to give strength to the hackle. It also gives some flash and color.*)
6. Select Elk or Deer hair from the hide. Cut about one-third to one-half the gape width of hair close as you can to the hide. (*You learn how much after you have tied a few of each size. For flat water, you want less.*) Clean out the underfur with your fingers or a comb. Place in a hair stacker, tips down. Tap the stacker a few times to even the ends.

7. Remove the stacked hair from the stacker pointed towards the bend of the hook. (*This avoids handling the hair too much.*) Measure the hair to come from the eye to the bend or just a little longer. Tie in the hair just in front of the dubbing using a very tight grip in the pinch method. When tying hair form a loose loop or two and pull firmly down. The hair will flair out. Put a couple more wraps and check the results. If you like it, place several wraps over your first wraps. If you are not happy, start over with the hair. (*It is very difficult to reuse the hair.*)
8. Lift the hair over the eye and make a couple wraps in front of the hair. Cut the hair over the eye at the same angle as the down eye. Make a couple wraps through the head. This is to help secure the hair.
9. Finish the fly by a whip finish over the initial hair wraps or half hitches over the eye of the hook.

Species caught: trout

### **Bibliography**

Hughes, Dave, *Essential Trout Flies*, Stackpole Books, 2000

Kaufmann, Randall, *Tying Dry Flies, Third Edition*, Western Fisherman's Press, 2001

Leeson, and Schollmeyer, *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying*, Frank Amato Publications, 2006