

By FFF Member Bob Bates

Hook: Mustad 94840, size 10-14

Thread: Uni 8/0 olive

Tail: Tip ends of deer hair shellback

Shell Back: Deer hair

Body: Yarn, yellow or orange

Hackle: Brown



Step 1: Put a thread base on the hook and tie in yarn at bend. Use two strands of a four strand yarn. Select a feather with barbs about a gap width to less than a gap and a half long. Tie feather in by the tip between barb and point.



Step 2: Wind thread forward to about two eye widths back from the eye. Put at least one wrap of yarn behind the feather and then wrap forward to the thread and secure.



Step 3: Bring the hackle around hook to where it is tied in before starting to palmer it forward. Put an extra wrap at the front to end the spiral. Secure hackle, trim excess, and build a thread base for tying in the deer hair.



Step 4: Find the middle portion of the hackle and pull the barbs down to make a little space for the shell-back. Pick deer hair that matches the hook length. If hair is too long then hair on the fly will be mostly solid fibers that will not float. Select a small bunch of deer hair, maybe a little more than a match stick in diameter when you twist it, clean out under fur and stack it. Trim butts so there will be enough hair at back of hook for the tail. Pre glue if you are going to make a hard head. It also makes tying the hair a little easier and provides something in there to keep hair in place.



Step 5: Finish head at front of hook: whip finish and trim thread. Pick up deer hair and with long tag in back build a thread base at back of body. Tie down deer hair securely with long tag and whip finish. Break off any deer hair that was pulled down too far by the thread. If there is quite a bit of hair pulled down reducing the size of the bundle next time might help .