

WIGGLE TAIL



Jay Fair's creation is one fly you don't leave home without. We have been tying this in our tying classes for some time. I have added one procedure that makes the fly more durable, a wire to protect the delicate hackle. Otherwise this is the way Jay Fair taught me to tie the fly. The fly is tied in eight color combinations.

Peacock, Burnt Orange, Leech Brown, Glimmer Medium Olive, Olive, Rust, Dark Cinnamon and Gold

Hook: #10 Sproat hook 1x short Daiichi 1530

Thread: Black 8/0

Weight: 10 wraps of .015 lead wire

Tail: Marabou fibers from the side of the feather plume

Body: 'Short Shuck' this is a type of chenille created by Jay Fair.

Rib: Fine gold wire

Hackle: Three turns

Secure the hook in your vise. 10 wraps of .015 lead wire counter clockwise. Make a thread dam in front and to the rear of the lead wire. This keeps the lead wrap from moving.



Select marabou for the tail. Remove 3/8" to 1/4" of marabou from the stem of the plume. Trim the butt end of the marabou. Move your thread to rear of the lead wrap and catch the butt end of the marabou with the tying thread and wrap back to the rear of the body, keeping the marabou on top of the hook. I put a wrap or two under the tail to keep it on top of the hook after the fly gets wet.



At this time attach the fine gold wire for the rib. Strip about 1/8" off the end of the Short Shuck and secure. Move the tying thread to the front of the hook and attach your hackle shiny side forward. Secure the hackle by wrapping back on the stem and break the excess.



You are now ready to assemble the fly. Wrap the 'Short Shuck' forward to the tie in point of the hackle and secure with the tying thread. Cut the excess Short Shuck. Clean up around the head. Some of the Short Shuck material will try to stick forward. Wrap the hackle three turns back to the base of the tail. Catch the hackle with the fine gold wire. Make two complete turns of the wire and wrap forward three or four turns to the head of the fly and secure with tying thread. Holding the tying thread tight, wiggle the wire until it breaks. Now you are ready to finish the fly. Pull the material back with fingers of your left hand and wrap the tying thread forcing the hackle back slightly and finish the head. I make two whip finishes and do not use head cement, your choice. The last step is to pinch off the marabou tail 1 inch to 1 1/4 inch long.



The materials can be purchased from most good fly shops: Contact me, Jerry Hopewell for questions. fluestang@comcast.net