

The Paraloop Midge

Materials

Hook: Any dry fly hook, sizes 12 through 16.

Thread: Match the body color.

Paraloop material: Flex Floss or Super Floss, color is not important.

Body: Peacock herl.

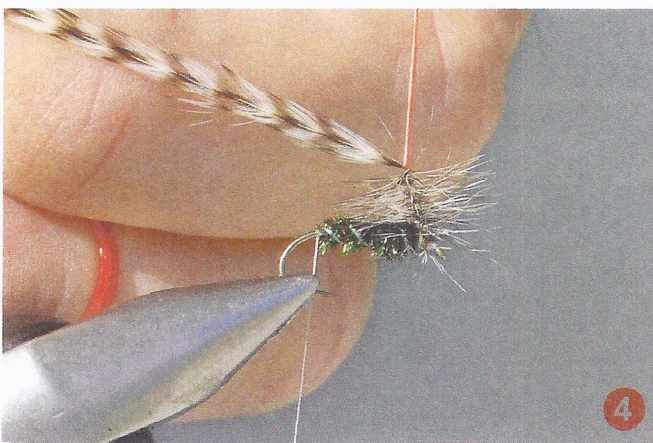
Hackle: Grizzly or black saddle hackle. I do not recommend neck hackle for this fly.

1. Tie in several strands of peacock herl at the rear of the hook. Spiral the thread to the front of the hook, and tie in the Flex Floss and hackle directly behind the head area. It makes no difference which side of the hackle faces you, dull or glossy.

2. Wrap the herl forward and tie off. Wrap a small neat head in front of the floss and hackle, and then spiral the thread to the rear over the peacock herl, reinforcing it. Half-hitch the thread to maintain its position at the very rear of the body. Your fingers will be busy enough when you are ready to tie down the floss and hackle, and you don't need the problem of having to reposition the thread.

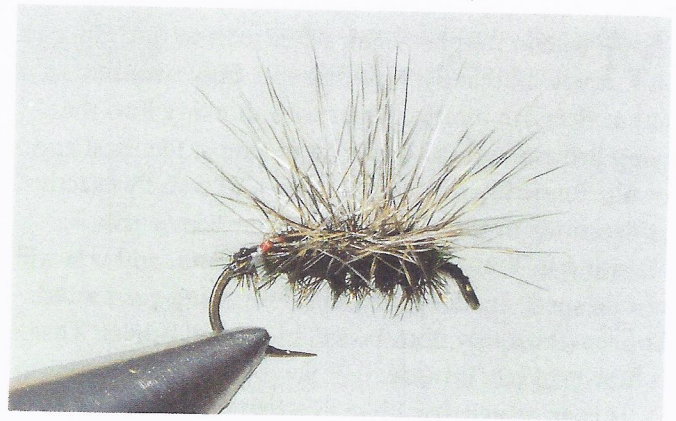
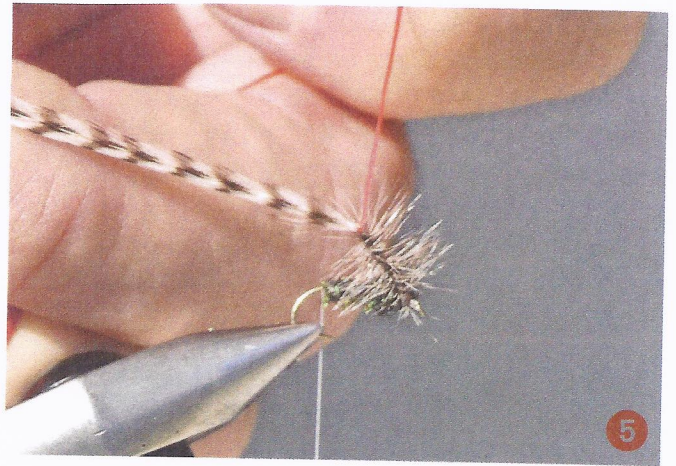
3. Wrap the floss around your left ring finger, and use your index finger as a gallows tool to adjust the tension in the floss. You may have to make adjustments to get the length right. Slightly stretch the floss, and begin wrapping the hackle, parachute style, up the floss. Make about 10 wraps of hackle around the floss. Try to keep the wraps close together, but don't fret too much because you will make adjustments in the next step. The long length and fine stem of the saddle hackle makes this an easy task.

4. After making ten or so wraps, stretch the floss a bit more. Then using the thumb and a fingernail on your right hand, compress the hackle wraps down toward the base of the floss. Repeat wrapping and compressing the hackle until the length of the wrapped hackle is almost the length of the body.



5. Grasping both the hackle and the floss with the left forefinger and thumb, fold the floss to the rear, and tie down both the hackle and the floss together at the rear. The stretchy floss makes it easy to adjust the length as necessary. Cut off the extra floss and hackle, and whip-finish at the rear.

This fly could be tied in the conventional manner by tying everything in at the rear and tying off at the head, but many people have difficulty obtaining a clean head area when tying off paraloop hackle. This approach solves that problem.



These side and front views of the Paraloop Midge illustrate how the hackle is all above the horizontal centerline of the fly, allowing it to ride on the water with the body in the film, rather than supported above it on the hackle tips.

Paraloop hackling results in some distinct differences that at times may prove advantageous over conventional approaches. A great deal more hackle can be tied on the fly without destroying its overall appearance.