

FENDER, *the* Deer- Hair *Parachute*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARRY ORDE CLARKE

THIS IS AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO TYING

the traditional parachute-style pattern. Deer hair replaces the hackle of a normal parachute. I make the post using deer hair as well, which enables the abdomen and thorax of the fly to sit deep in the surface film in a realistic manner while in a fish's feeding window.

There are many different techniques for tying parachute hackles, as well as special gallow's tools that enable you to keep both hands free for tying. This is probably the easiest technique that requires no special tools, and you can apply it to most traditional types of dry flies and emergers.

The results will differ with the type of deer hair you use. I have had good but very different results with both early-season and late-season hair. The early-season hair is a summer coat, fine and stiff, and creates a traditional-looking hackle. Late-season hair, which is the winter coat, has much more body and volume than the summer coat, and it flares more, too; the result can resemble a paraloop hackle unless the hair is pressed down flat and glued into place. Winter hair also contains more natural oils than the early-season coat and has a tendency not to adhere to glue, but if you use deer hair purchased from a fly shop, it has been washed and tanned, typically resolving this issue.

Unlike deer hair, moose mane hair does not benefit from being tanned and washed. In fact, its natural fats and oils make the hair exceedingly flexible and durable, qualities lost when the hair is stripped and processed. Shop-bought moose mane that has been washed and tanned can become dry and very brittle, and breaks when wrapped or stretched.

If you hunt or know a moose hunter, try to get ahold of a patch of skin from the back of the neck of a bull. Moose mane hair is not from the beard that hangs on the front of the neck, and the longest hair is found on the back of the upper neck. Being an elk hunter, I have access to a huge amount of select material each autumn, but I take only small patches of the best and most useful hair for tying. This hair is remarkably strong and when pulled between the fingers, practically unbreakable.

On the Water

The types of rises I see on the water give me a good indication about whether the trout are keying on emergers or duns. With emergers, the fish usually move slowly and suck in water under the target repeatedly, or they push the surface film into a small mound without actually breaking the surface. When the trout are rising to duns, the take is more enthusiastic, slashy, and splashy. When rises are sparse or the fish are playing hard to get, try an emerger. You can also search pocket water or fish dead-drift with an emerger and appropriate single nymph as a dropper.

The ribbed-moose-mane (quill body) tying technique I am showing you is fairly old, but I revitalize the method with the help of Bug Bond UV resin. We all know that the floating qualities of deer hair are hard to match, but it's still worth giving this pattern a coat of floatant for extra buoyancy. This quick and simple parachute technique requires only deer hair and Bug Bond UV resin or a substitute adhesive.

Barry Clarke is a regular contributor to our magazine. In addition to being an amazing tier, he is also a professional photographer. Barry lives in Norway.

Norway's **Barry Orde Clarke** returns with another of his amazingly inventive patterns. This time he shows us how to tie a terrific parasol-style emerger he named in honor of his favorite hunting companion—his dog!



Making the Deer-Hair Parachute

1 Secure an emerger hook in the vise with as much of the bend exposed as possible.

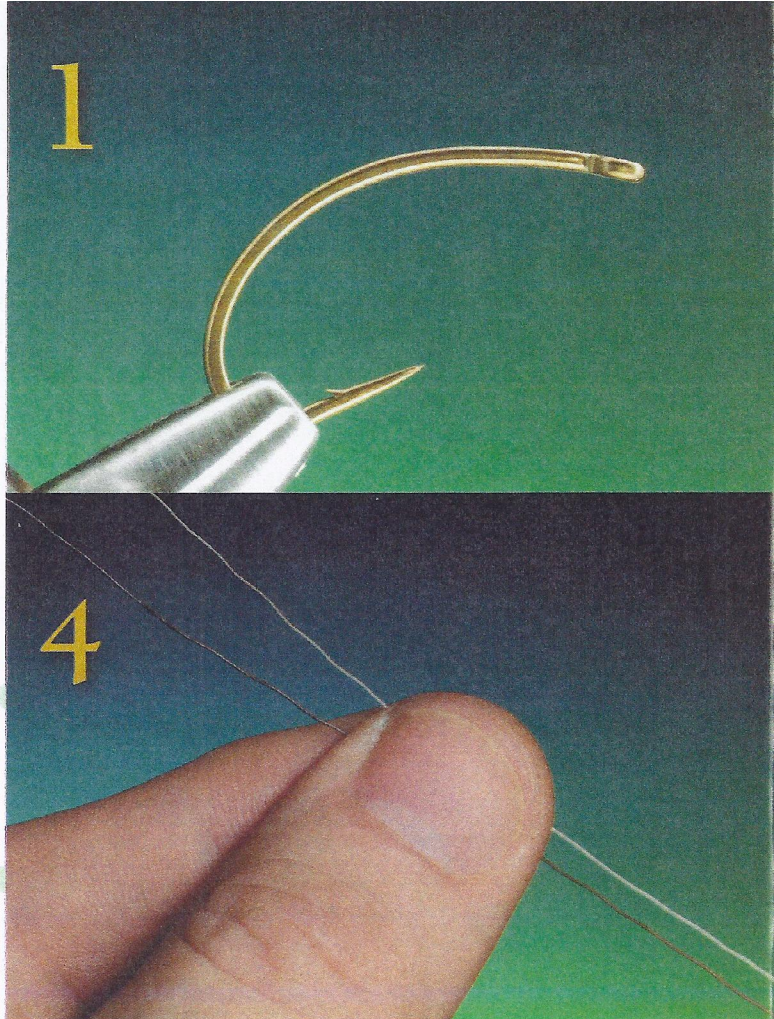
2 Wrap the thread from just behind the hook eye down deep into the bend.

3 Select some long moose mane hair.

4 You will need two long hairs from the moose mane, one white and one black.

5 Tie in the moose hairs with the points close to each other at the base of the hook bend.

6 Wrap a tapered thread underbody with the thicker end near the thorax.

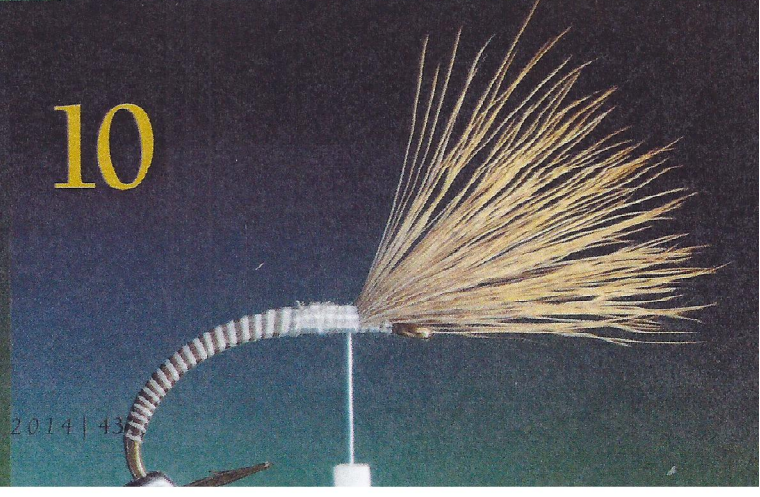
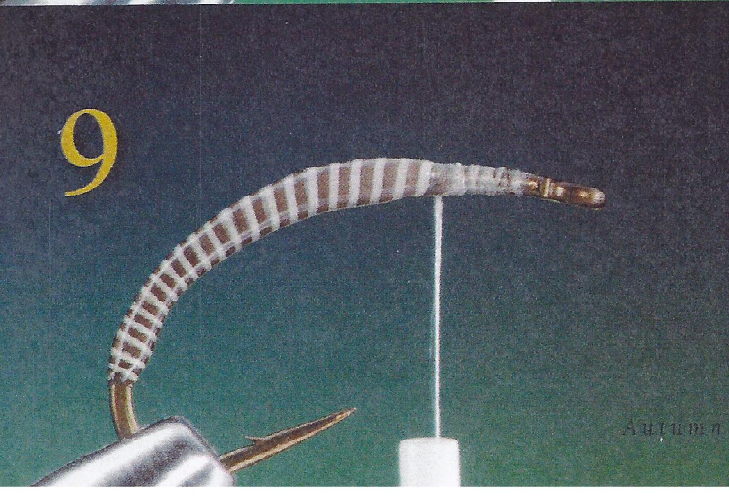
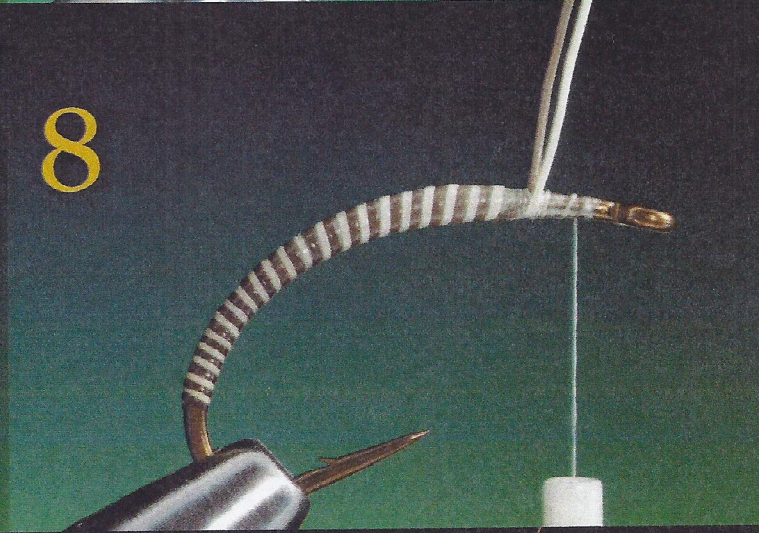
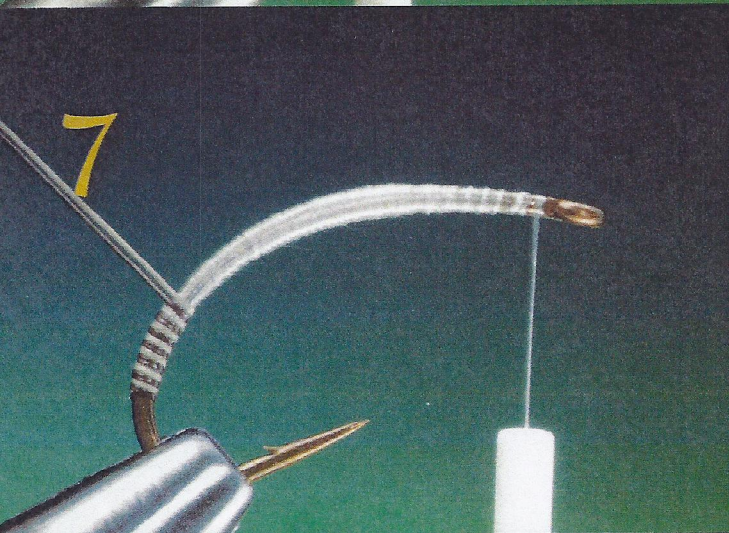
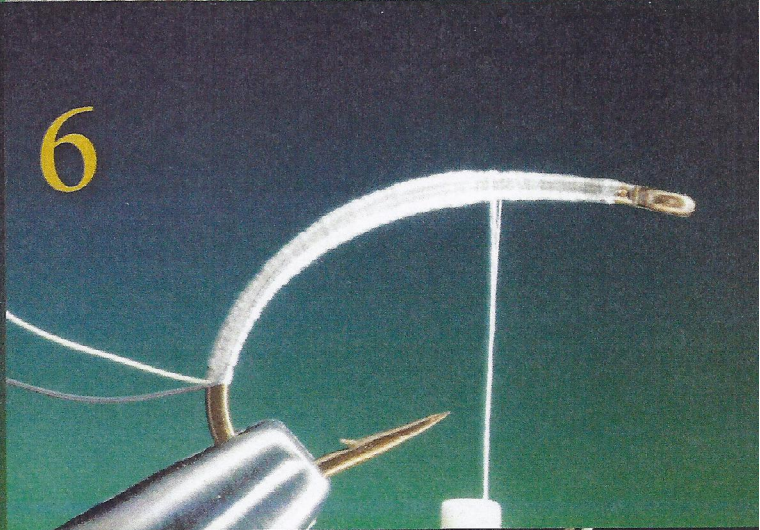
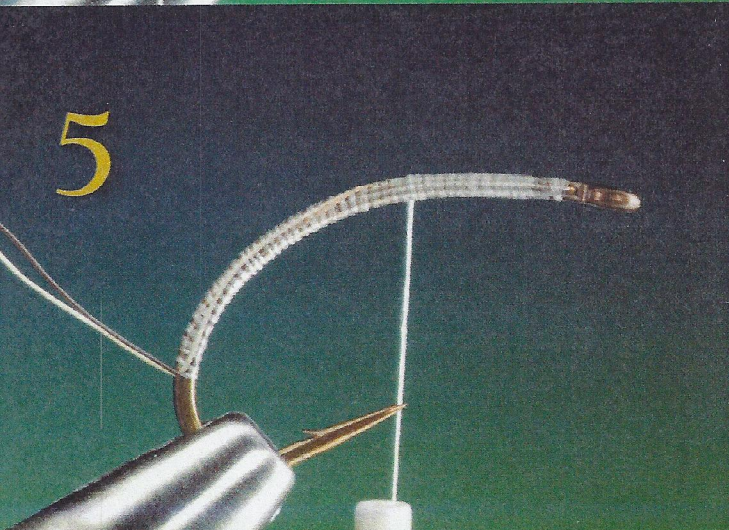
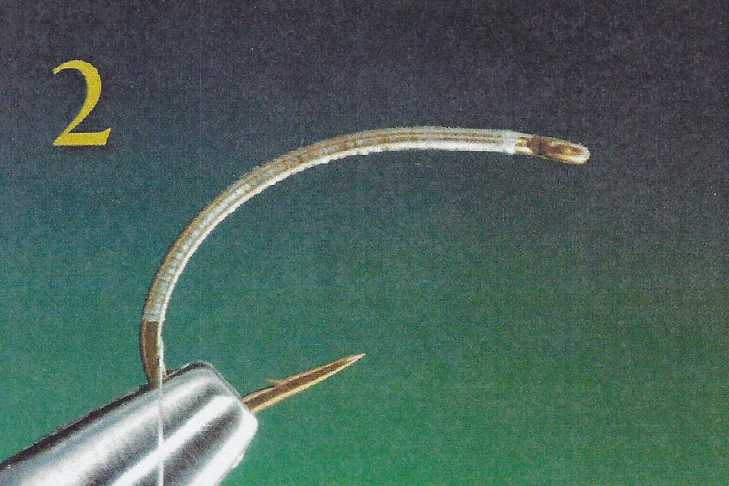


7 Grasp both hairs at once with the black hair at the bottom. Begin wrapping the hairs up the hook. Leave no gaps between wraps.

8 Wrap the abdomen up to the thorax area. Tie off the hairs.

9 Clip the surplus hair and tie down the ends. Although moose mane hairs are remarkably strong, you may strengthen the abdomen with a coat of Bug Bond UV resin or a similar product.

10 Cut and stack a small bunch of deer hair. Tie the butt ends of the hair to the top of the hook in front of the abdomen. The hair should be about the same length as the hook.





FENDER

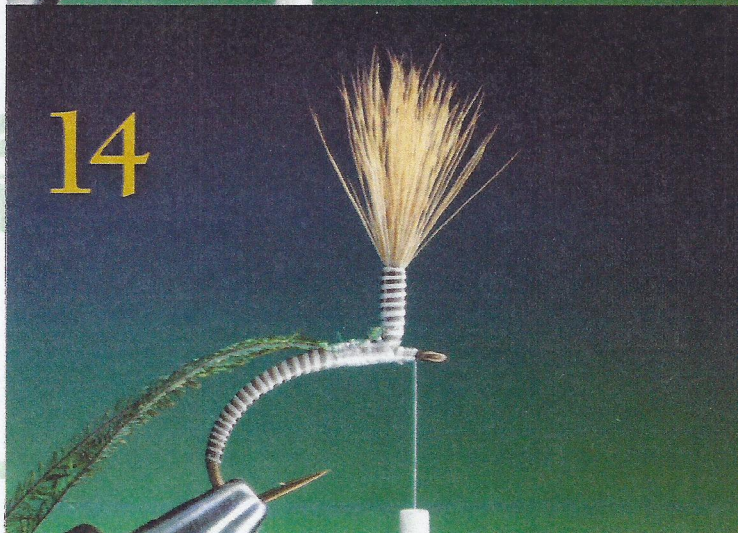
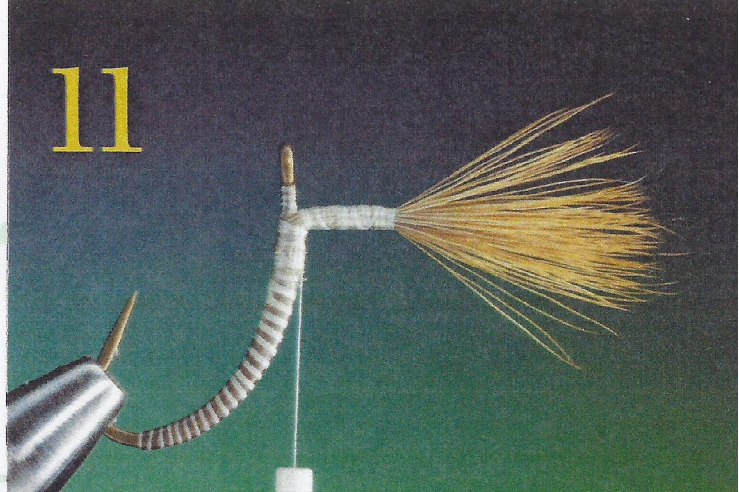
HOOK: Mustad C49S, size to match the natural.

THREAD: Dyneema (gel spun).

ABDOMEN: Moose mane hair coated with Bug Bond UV resin or a substitute adhesive.

HACKLE: Deer hair and Bug Bond UV.

THORAX: Two strands of peacock herl



11 Reposition the hook in the vise with the eye pointing up. Wrap the thread up and down the base of the hair post.

12 Select two more long moose hairs, one white and one black. Tie the hairs on the base of the post with the butt ends at the hook shank.

13 Wrap the two hairs down the post and tie off at the hook shank. Clip the surplus pieces of moose hair. Return the hook to the regular position in the vise.

14 Tie on the tips of two long lengths of peacock herl at the rear of the thorax.

15 Wrap the herl to the hook eye to create the thorax. Tie off and snip the remaining pieces of herl. Whip-finish and clip the thread.

16 Place your fingertip in the center of the deer-hair post. Press down until the deer hair flattens and flares outward.

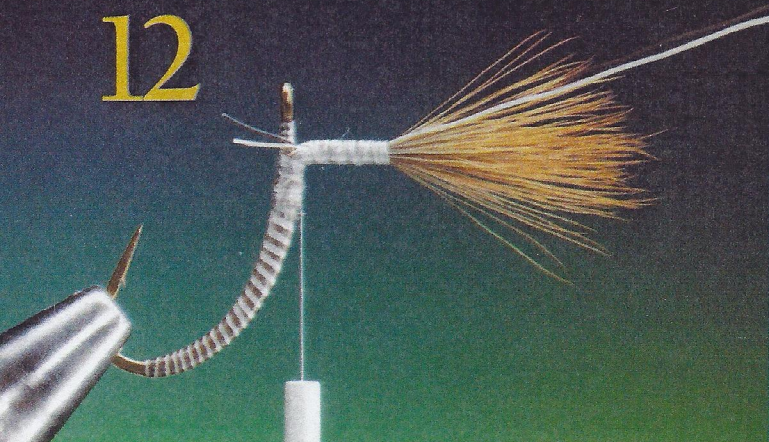
17 Place a small drop of Bug Bond UV resin or superglue in the center of the deer-hair parachute hackle.

18 Cure the Bug Bond using the UV light.

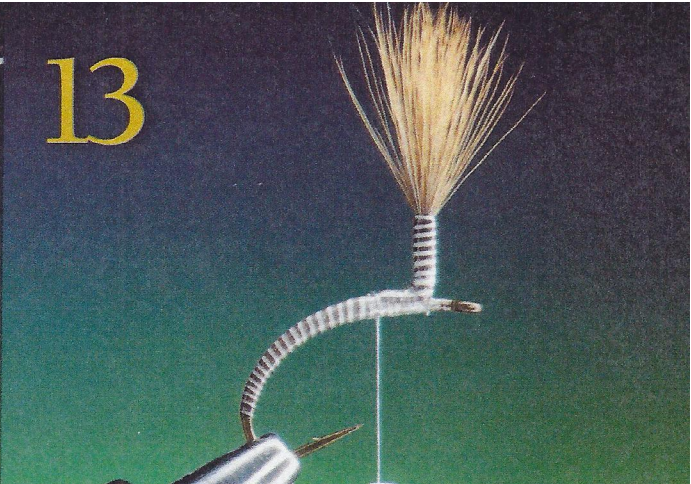
19 Here's our finished fly, as seen from the top.

20 Here is more of a fish's-eye view of Fender, the Deer-Hair Parachute. 🐟

12



13



15



16



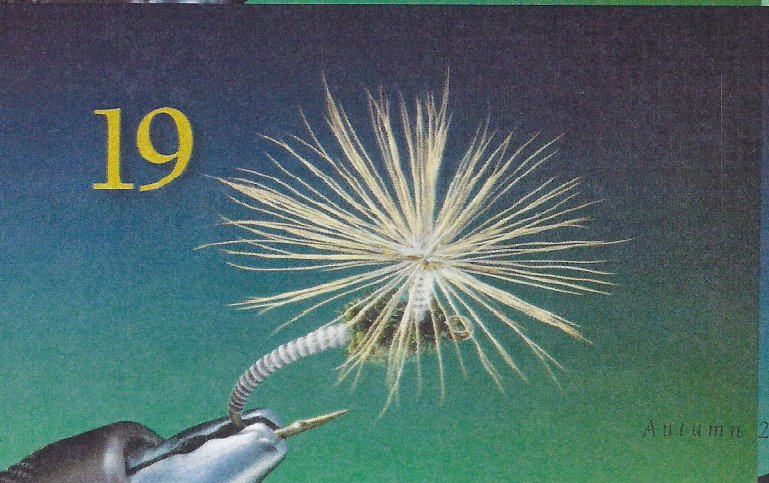
17



18



19



20

