



The Inkwazi Fly Fishing Quick Caddis

Having tied thousands of Elk Hair caddis patterns and in particular some very small ones it has become apparent that much of the time one can get away with skipping the onerous procedure of adding body hackle. This speeds up the tie, makes it easier on small hooks and saves your expensive genetic hackles for another day. With modern floatants this version seems to float fine most of the time and the ragged body material does a fair job of imitating the natural's rather "fluffy" appearance. Quick, simple and deadly what more could you ask for in a fly pattern?

Al Troth did fly anglers a great service when he produced the Elk hair caddis, of course it seems old hat now but at the time most flies were tied in standard Catskill or Halfordian styles and even Caddis patterns were tied much the same way as the mayflies with some sort of rear facing wing as a sort of add on to make it a caddis pattern. Even the Adam's was supposedly originally tied to represent caddis flies. So as with all great patterns everyone and his dog seems compelled to fiddle with the design to "improve" it. This isn't an improvement of the Elk hair, it is simply quicker, cheaper and easier on small hooks and does represent a pretty good imitation of the natural fly. It also does a fair job, at least in the larger sizes of imitating grasshoppers, beetles and any number of drowned terrestrial bugs real or imagined.



I far prefer the TMC900 BL hook for most of my dry flies and this one is no exception. On tiny patterns a straight or ring eyed hook makes a good alternative as the eye doesn't then obscure the gape.
Wind on pale yellow, tan or olive thread to the bend of the hook



Then dub on a thin body of loose and uneven fur, whereas most dry flies use synthetics and water resistant fine furs this pattern seems best with a rough appearance and any mixed blend in suitable colours will do. The key is to end up with a rather rough and fluffy effect to resemble the real insect's appearance.



Then stack a small bunch of Elk Hair in a hair stacker, I prefer the bleached Elk for most of my caddis patterns as it is easier to see, but imitation my require that you use, tan, olive, brown or dark gray colours when required. Holding the bunch over the hook shank, tie in two loose pinch and loop wraps and pull tight, taking care to keep the hair on the top of the hook and try not to allow it to flare too much.

Lift up the butts which are hanging over the eye and trim to form a short blunt head. Whip finish behind the eye of the hook and underneath the head of the pattern. There you have it a three step, super quick and highly effective pattern for imitating caddis flies or simply "drumming" them up on slow days.

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