

Information about tying the “quick Spun Dun”, (Tied by Tim Rolston).

General:

I have been enamoured with the Comparadun style of flies for years, the no hackle design, the simplicity of the materials and the low cost all add up but the real benefit is that the trout love them. The only real problem with the comparaduns was that as a result of tying the deer hair down underneath the abdomen the flies were frequently a “little portly” and tended as a result to land with a little less delicacy that might have been otherwise expected.

Eddie Gerber first showed me the “spun dun”, it is in essence a comparadun but with two main advantages: it is slimmer and as a result it can be easily tied down to size 18 or even smaller.

This Quick version was designed to overcome problems with speed of tying, simplicity of materials and last but not least produce a slimmer and more sparse fly that still floats remarkably well.

Hook: TMC 900 BL (12 through 18)

Thread: UTC 120 denier. (the thicker thread allows it to form the body without dubbing) and to torque down the “hackle” without fear of thread breakage

Tails: Split tails of hackle fibre, Coq De Leon or microfibbets.

Abdomen: Thread only, colours in general use include Black, Gray, Olive and Tan (Orange was used here for better visibility).

“Hackle”: Fine Deer Hair, spun slightly on the bare hook shank to form a semi circular collar, the butts trimmed to provide additional floatation and a thoracic bulge, imitative of the wing muscles of mayfly species.



Lay down a bed of touching turns of thread along the shank to the bend, ensure that the thread is even and that you stay on the level part of the shank. DO NOT cut off the tag end of the thread, this will be used to separate the tail fibres later.



Tie in the tail materials, make sure that they are long enough to reach up the shank of the hook to the thorax, (Approx 23rd of the hook shank length). Tie in tails and pull tag end of thread between them to separate. Tie down the remaining tag with thread and maintain touching turns to the thorax, creating a smooth and slim abdomen. I now tie a lot of spun duns with split micro fibbet tails, which produces a slightly neater looking fly but it is up to you.



Tie in a good bunch of deer hair that has been combed and stacked. Bear in mind that you will be tying in the tips, so don't under do the amount; it is far thinner at the tips. Tie in the hair leaving enough of the tips to produce the desired wing height (about 1½ the gape of the hook). Cut off the butts to leave stubs which will form the thorax. Holding the hair in place torque down the thread nice and tight with a couple of extra wraps. Take thread to the front of the wing and build a “head” of tightly wound thread to stand the wing upright. Whip finish. It is important to push the wing back and keep it there with the thread otherwise the wing will tend to move forwards when damp.

The alternative is to spin the hair and trim off the excess under the hook, this is however more wasteful of both time and materials.

A variation is to avoid the whip finish and use the super glue whip finish instead, here you simply paint a small amount of cyanoacrylate (superglue) on the first cm of thread and make three tight turns, hold tight for a few seconds and cut off the remaining thread. This offers speed, simplicity, neatness and added durability.

The end result is an extremely visible mayfly pattern that can be used to imitate, duns, spinners and cripples, by varying the thread colour one can cover a lot of different species very easily. The “no hackle” design of flies has been proven over the years and this is one of the quickest and easiest patterns to tie and fish with. Give it a try, the fish love it.

Similar flies, especially in smaller sizes can be manufactured using CDC (cul de canard) or polyarn for the wings and these materials prove perhaps better on the tiny versions where space is at a premium..

You will find more information on these flies and their variations on my blog using the link

<http://paracaddis.wordpress.com/2009/07/30/flies-compara-and-spun-duns/>

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