



Parachute Caddis

[Immitative of various caddis flies and particulary useful on Cape Streams in tan and black, the black micro caddis being particularly common in the early part of the season.]

The micro black caddis was probably one of my most successful imitations to date, the brown version shown here is exactly the same except for the substitution of brown for black in terms of the dubbing, the hackle and the wings (in this case goose biots)

These flies are small an although the pattern works from #14 down the fly shown in #18 and I tie them down to #20 which is really a better imitation of the natural. For the large sizes and on the original patterns the wing post was poly yarn and the wind guinea fowl (black version) or (pheasant tail) tan version. The wing slips for these variations require preparation by coating the feathers with varnish, Sally Hansen's Hard as nails and allowing them to dry before separating individual slips. The Slips will tear neatly along the fibres once varnished. In the micro versions both for simplicity and durability I find the goose biots work better. The fly is sometimes tied with one biot lying flat or two as in this version. If you use the wing slip method, cutting a small "V" in the slip will assist in mounting it equally placed either side of the post.

This is in my opinion a "must have" pattern for the Cape, the adult caddis can be found on the rocks for weeks if not months at a time and the fish know about them. There is a second hatch later in the year so don't put your caddis patterns away just because spring is over.

A word on tying the pattern:

The method of fishing of the hackle with a whip finish around the base of the post was first shown to me in Oliver Edward's book, *Oliver Edward's Master Class* and used on the Kinkhamer flies. It is a lot easier than it looks after a bit of practice and if you catch the odd hackle fibre just trim it off with the scissors afterwards. Use fine tread for these flies, 70 denier VMC thread was used here. The alternative "super glue" whip finish around the base of the post works even better and much as I don't like to use glue when tying flies for small flies I will make an exception.



Start with a small #14 to #20 hook, either a TMC 900BL or the Grip pupa hooks shown...

Start the thread a short distance behind the eye and wrap part way to the bend and half the way back to create as stable platform for the wing post.



On the small patterns I now use calf tail as it seems easier to see in micro quantities but poly yarn is also fine and much softer. Take a small quantity of white calf tail fibres and comb out the short, broken and odd fibres.

Mount the fibres on top of the hook shank with the butts facing forwards, tip up the post and wrap tight wraps of thread in front of the wing and up its base and back down again. You need to support the wing as you do this, if you don't need to the wing is too bulky.



Tie in a suitable hackle and wrap up and down the wing post again to secure it. This is my standard manner of adding hackle to parachutes and provides for far greater durability than the methods of tying the hackle to the hook itself. The hackle shown is a small saddle hackle from a Whiting 100 saddle pack. These offer excellent value for small dry fly tying as there is no waste and you can tie the same fly over and over up to ten per single hackle.



With the hackle mounted, take the thread to the bend of the hook and dub a VERY small amount of suitable superfine dry fly dubbing up to the wing post..



Then tie in the wing or wings directly behind the post. Take care to trap the wings securely but do not create bulk. There should be three or four wraps of thread at the most.



This is where things get a little weird if you are not used to this style of parachute. Add another VERY VERY small amount of dubbing and wind forward past the post and back again. The whip finish is going to be made around the post not the hook. This seems tricky but is easier than it looks and gives both a better profile to the fly and avoids covering up the eye on small patterns. It is essential that the last full wrap of thread is made AROUND THE POST so that it is in the correct plane for finishing off the hackle.



With hackle pliers, wrap the hackle in the same manner as normal, I find it helps to tip the hook forward a little at this point. You should wrap the hackle with each wrap tucking below the previous one, this is what adds durability and the hackle won't unravel up the post whilst on the water.

Finish by whip finishing around the post underneath the hackle. That sounds tough but it is more than possible and I do all my parachutes like this now. A simpler and durable method is to moisten the final couple of millimetres of thread with super glue, make three wraps under the hackle and around the post, keep the tension on the thread for a moment and cut off.



THE ORIGINAL:

This is the original black version with guinea fowl wing on a TMC barbless hook. It works fine but one cannot stop tinkering and the new version just seems a little prettier to me and the dressing is a little more sparse, something the trout seem to like a lot.

Have fun tying and fishing this pattern it really is an absolute killer on its day.

Fly tied and designed by Tim Rolston

If you like small flies you should get hold of Ed Engle's "Small Flies" available from [NETBOOKS](#).

He ties flies down to size #32 just in case you thought this was a small fly.

There are lots of books and DVDs at NETBOOKS on both tying and fishing small flies in streams and stillwaters. Netbooks supply books and DVDs to anglers all over South Africa, you can browse and order on line or give them a call on 021 5514248

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