

UMBRELLA EMERGER, *Baetis*



By Bob Bates

Leonard Gross of Spokane, Washington was tying this pattern at the 2011 Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA. He was using a strange looking hook. It was the Japanese Elephant Proof Umbrella hook. A floating pattern tied on this hook has several advantages. One: It always lands correctly. Two: With the point down the fish hits it first so the hook ups are better. Three: It is made with high strength steel. Four: The gap on the barbless hook is larger than normal. Only four sizes of hooks are manufactured: Large, medium, small and midge. The sizes for the medium listed on the package are 12, 14, and 16.

He ties this pattern in several styles: blue wing olive (*Baetis*), midge and pheasant tail. The materials listed here are for the *Baetis* mayfly. It is a popular hatch in Idaho, Montana and elsewhere. Many species are in the blue wing olive group. According to Knopp and Cormier in *Mayflies* there are approximately sixty North American species classified in this complex. A size 16 blue wing olive is about the largest one and sizes go down to size 24. Many are multibrooded. That means some have more than one hatch per year. This makes them of more interest to fly anglers. These small nymphs have a difficult time in breaking through the surface film. Even after breaking through they will float a considerable distance on the stream surface before taking off, especially on cooler days. Friends have reported seeing them struggling for hundreds of feet on the surface before disappearing into a trout or the air.

Usually when tying on an umbrella hook an extended body is tied on the part of the hook just behind the eye, and the hackle is wrapped below it with the bottom part of the hook bare. Leonard built this pattern on the Klinkhammer style emerger pattern with the hackle on top of the hook. The fly sits lower in the water this way, and it looks more like a emerging insect.

Normal dry fly fishing techniques are used. Floating line and drag free float are usually required. The leader length (usually on the longer side) and strength appropriate to the conditions. I guess that when Leonard is

fishing the Missouri River in Montana he beefs up the leader strength a little incase he tags one of those big rainbows or browns.

Materials List

Hook: Umbrella hook, medium

Thread: Olive 14/0

Tail: Lemon duck

Shuck: Z-lon, ginger

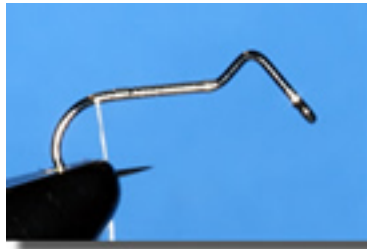
Body: Biot, olive dyed

Thorax: Peacock herl

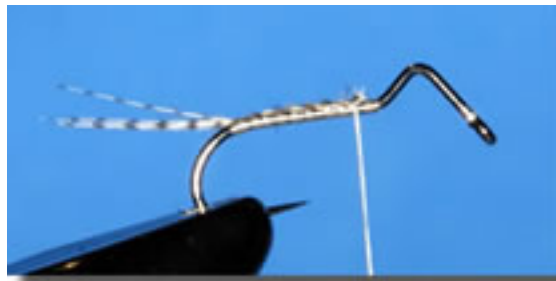
Post: Natural (light tan) and black snowshoe rabbit's foot mixed with pearl Ice Dub, 1/3 rd each

Hackle: Olive dyed grizzly

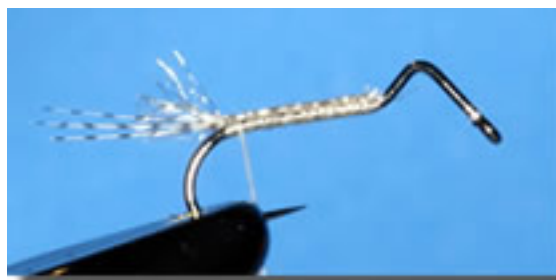
Tying Steps:



1. Put lower part of hook horizontal, and lay smooth thread base to the bend as shown.



2. Select four fibers from a lemon duck flank feather, and tie on tail of length equal to the lower straight part of the hook. Wrap thread smoothly forward, trim excess lemon duck fibers.



3. Tie a few strands of ginger Z-lon on top of hook, and trim shuck at half the length of the tail.



4. Tie an olive biot by its tip with the notch facing forward. Then carefully wrap the biot forward, secure and trim excess.



5. Move hook in vise so the part in front of the biot is level. This makes it easier to wrap the two peacock herls. Sometimes he will wrap the peacock herls around the thread to strengthen it. Then move the hook so the part between the peacock herl and eye is horizontal.



6. Take a small bunch of the post mixture, even it out a little. Secure it between the eye and first bend



7. Pull up both sides of the post material, and wrap the thread around everything for about 2 mm of posting. Put a little bit of head cement on the thread wrapped post.



8. Select an olive dyed grizzly hackle, and put it on the hook so barbs point upward. Usually the curvature is toward the dull side of the feather. Trim some of the barbs, and secure it so it can be wrapped counterclockwise so thread winds will tighten the feather. Wrap hackle up and back down again to get more turns of hackle. Let the hackle pliers and hackle hang in front of the post, sweep the horizontal barbs back and secure hackle to the hook. Trim excess. Putting the hackle on with barbs sweeping upward lets the body sink a little more.

Closing comments: Finding Umbrella hooks is a little more difficult than it once was. The only one I found in an internet search is Swede's Fly Shop in Spokane, Washington, 1611 N Ash Street, (509) 323-0500, <http://swedesflyshop.com/> It is also where Leonard and I get our umbrella hooks. Three of Leonard's other Umbrella Emergers are shown below. Tying techniques are the same as described in the tying steps above. Material colors change a little. However, on the PMD version he used the hackle stacker technique. To see one way to tie the hackle stacker go to April 2010 – Smoke Jumper, FFF Fly of the Month.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org

MIDGE



PHEASANT TAIL



PMD

