
FLY OF THE MONTH

HENRY'S FORK HOPPER

Hook:	2x long dry, size 8-12 - TMC 5212
Wing:	Mottled brown hen saddle feather - lacquered
Thread:	Yellow 6/0
Body:	Long natural cream elk hair
Collar:	Tips of head hair
Rib:	Yellow tying thread
Head:	Natural elk hair, bullet style
Underwing:	Dyed yellow elk hair
Legs:	Yellow rubber legs, knotted (legs are optional)



1. Wrap a layer of thread on the hook shank from the 1/3 point to the bend of the hook and back to the starting point. Select a bunch of long elk hair, clean the fuzz from the butts. Stack the hair to even the tips. Tie in at the 1/3 point by the tips. Wrap the body tight to the hook shank back to the bend. The but section of the elk hair should be extending back over the bend of the hook.
2. When your thread reaches the bend of the shank take a couple of wraps around the elk hair just behind the bend. Then carefully wrap the extended elk hair creating the extended body. The extended body should be about 1/3 the length of the shank. After wrapping the elk hair to form the extended under body gather the hair back around the extended portion and the part tied to the hook shank. Pull this excess elk hair forward back to the 1/3 point. Now wrap the thread forward to the 1/3 point forming the segmentation. Make several wraps at each segment. Make several tight wraps at the 1/3 point securing the body. Clip the excess and taper the tie off point with thread wraps. Apply head cement to the securing thread wraps.
3. Select a small bunch of yellow dyed elk hair and stack to even the tip ends. Measure to extend back to the end of the extended body. Tie this underwing in at the 1/3 point with the tips extending back over the body to the end of the body. Make two soft wraps around the wing and then tighten. Make several tight wraps to secure the underwing on top of the body. Now we need to tie the underwing flat against the body. To do this move the thread back to the first segment and make two medium firm wraps over the underwing and then take the thread forward and make 2 or 3 firm wraps in front of the body to secure. The underwing should now be laying flat against the body.

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4. Measure a lacquered mottled hen feather to reach the end of the underwing. Tie in at the 1/3 point. The feather should wrap down around the underwing and the upper portion of the body. Take the thread back to the first segment and repeat the procedure used in step three to flatten the feather wing down against the body.
5. Select a small bunch of natural elk hair for the head and collar. Stack it to even the tips after removing the fuzz from the but section. Measure this elk hair to the length of the hook. Trim off the excess butts. Tie in by the butts at the 1/3 point with the tips extending over the eye. Wrap the hair tight so it flairs around the shank. Make several firm wraps to secure. Take the thread back to the 1/3 point. Reverse the hair extending over the eye taking it back forming a bullet head. Take several wraps over the reversed hair to secure. (If you are going to add legs proceed to step 6 at this point) Make a few more tight thread wraps and whip finish at this point.
6. If you choose to tie in legs clip two pieces of yellow rubber leg material two times the length of the hook shank. Tie a knot in the center of each forming the "knee" of the legs. Tie one on each side with the knot portion extending back towards the bend. The legs are tied in at the same point the bullet head and collar is secured. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Mike Lawson who has spent years fishing the Henry's Fork of the Snake River developed this fly. Mike was, until recently, the owner of Last Chance Anglers in Last Chance, Idaho. I suppose he is most famous for his "No Hackle Mayfly". I would love to make his "No Hackle" one of the Fly of The Month entries but I have never been able to master this beautiful pattern. Maybe some day!

The Henry's Fork Hopper, in spite of the lengthy instructions, is not a difficult pattern to tie. It is an effective fish catching grasshopper pattern. If grasshoppers are working you won't be sorry you tied some of these.

Tom Smith

WORD DOODLES

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Maybe that's why I'm getting out. Maybe it's my age. Maybe I'm afraid of creating more pressure, or chancing killing a real life honest to goodness wild steelhead or trout. Maybe I'm just tired of it all. Maybe it's just gotten too inconvenient. Maybe God lets you forget about trout when you reach my age. Kinda like a bunch of other things. Maybe that's the first thing to go. "What trout?" "Did you see that one?" "Here trout, here trout." "Anyone see a trout? If you do, it's mine." "I think I've lost my trout." How will they know I'm a fisherman when I get there unless I've got my trout with me?

My rod is worn out. I'm worn out. My boots leak. I'm too fat to fit in my waders. I can't walk anywhere anymore, and

frankly, I'm all out of excuses.

On the other hand, if all this ever gets out on the street, I'm ruined. I'll be the laughing stock of everyone. So, I guess I just have to hang in there and keep all of this stuff to myself.

Remember, if you see a trout... he's mine. How will they know I fish unless I've got my trout with me? 🐟

QUOTE

"If we carry purism to its logical conclusion, to do it right you'd have to live naked in a cave, hit your trout on the head with rocks, and eat them raw. But, so as not to violate another essential element of the fly-fishing tradition, the rocks would have to be quarried in England and cost \$300 each."

John Gierach 🐟

