

FLY OF THE MONTH

MFC Para-Cricket

from Montana Fly Company-Size 10 and 12 (revised 11/27/07 - Lucky Ketcham)

Hook: Dry Fly, 2X or 3X Long, 2X Fine size 8, 10 or 12
TMC 5212, 200R, Mustad 94831, Daiichi 1280,
Thread: Black, flat waxed 6/0
Tail: Deer, dyed black, or moose
Abdomen: Black thread over deer hair, tapered.
Under-wing: 8 to 10 strands pearl Krystal flash
Wing: Coarse shiny deer hair
Legs: Black round rubber Madam X style
Post: White poly yarn or Hi-Vis
Hackle: Black saddle or neck, sized for larger hook.
Thorax: Black buggy dubbing or peacock herl
Head: Black thread.



This was a good fly on the Green River, June 2007. The cicadas were a small species with a sharply pointed abdomen. The wings were clear cellophane like with black veins. I think the brown trout were taking the size 10 and 12 as cicadas as well as a cricket. The flattened thread over the tapered deer hair looks very shiny. They might add a thin coat of head cement to get the effect.

Remember parachute and Comparadun dry flies usually have the post or wing at the 7/8 hook shank position rather than the normal $\frac{3}{4}$. Start the jam knot at this point to help you remember. Wrap a tight thread base to the bend. Select 8 to 10 coarse, shiny black deer hairs, clean and stack. Size the tail to extend 1 hook gap or less. Trim the butts to end at the 2/3 hook shank, a little longer the usual mid shank point. Attach the tail with loose wraps at the bend and tight wraps forward. The abdomen on this fly is a tapered cone, twice as wide at the mid hook as it is near the tail. Build up the front end with flattened thread. Flatten the thread by letting the bobbin hang and turn while lifting on the thread with your bodkin needle.

I found that adding the white poly yarn post before the wing is easier and gives a clearer point

of where to end the wing butts. There is less of a chance of crowding the eye if you set the post

location first. Cut a 2 inch piece of white Antron or 3 ply polyester yarn. Attach at the 7/8 hook shank position, just forward of the end of the abdomen. Wrap thread around the hook shank a few times fore and aft of the post and then hold the yarn tight while making 5 or 6 thread wraps up the yarn post and then 5 to 6 down. Always wrap the thread around the hook shank a few times fore and aft after wrapping a post. Pull on the thread to tighten. Position the yarn post on top, dead center and apply a small drop of head cement on the post and hook thread wraps, penetrating to the hook shank.

Select a small bunch of pearl crystal flash 5 to 6 fibers 2 inches long. Even the tips attach by the middle as an under-wing with the ends just past the tail. Fold the front half of the flash back to lock in; make three tight wraps over the fold and spread fibers evenly with your magic thumbnail. Over-wing: Select a small bundle of coarse, shiny black deer hair, about two match sticks in size. (15 to 20 hairs are enough to represent the black

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MFC Paracriket

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veins in the clear wings of the Cicada.) Clean out short hairs and under-fur. Stack to make tips even. Hold over the body with tips to the rear to size. The tips should be the length of the hook bend, but not as long as the flash and tail. Pre-trim the butts to the 2/3 point. Cut the butts blunt to make a shoulder up against the post. Use thread control while pinching the wing with your left hand. Tie the butts with three tight wraps near the post. Make 3 or 4 loose wraps to the rear to prevent flaring the coarse hair. Remember to make "soft pinch wraps" and pull straight down or straight up to keep the hair from turning to the far side. Thread torque on bundles of hair is always a challenge to keep the hair where you want it. All hair seems to act differently and you make small adjustments for each. Hard thin hair is easier for down wings rather than soft pithy spinning hair.

Add black round rubber legs Madam X style to each side, just behind the wing post. Rear legs extend to the tail, front legs are shorter. Attach a black saddle or neck hackle, shiny side up. Make the post more substantial with a thread wrap base up and down the post and quill. The hackle is now standing straight up, in front of the post. Wrap the thread back to the last

wraps on the wing. Attach 3 or 4 peacock herl and make a rope. Wrap the herl rope forward, covering the thread over the deer hair, between the legs, in front of the post, in front of the front legs. If necessary make a few double wraps in front of the post. You always want a level platform on the thorax when you make a parachute. End the herl rope at the back of the post and trim off excess.

Bring the thread back to the rear of the post and let it hang. (Like pool, you have to plan for your next shot.) Hold on to the poly yarn while wrapping the black hackle counter-clockwise around the post. Wrap the hackle with 5 or 6 tight turns, each under the next, ending near the body. Wrap the thread around the post, counter-clockwise, under the hackle and close to the body. Make three tight wraps while pulling on the hackle tip. I no longer try to tie the hackle at the hook shank. Just let the excess hang to the rear. Bring the thread the hook eye. Make a small thread head, whip finish and trim. Trim the excess hackle with just the tips of scissors. Trim the white post to be 2 hook gaps long. Add a small drop of head cement to the whip finish.

FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--

Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.

