

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Does anyone do this with hackle?

Re: Does anyone do this with hackle?

Author: : wbranch

Date: : 2013/3/26 14:41:03

URL:

I have been tying flies for fifty-six (56) years and I have never pulled hackles out of a cape to pre-sort them relative to different sizes to expedite my tying. But then I don't sell flies nor do I ever tie more than one dozen of anything at any tying session.

Sometimes when I'm tying a feather may come out of the cape, or saddle, that I didn't want or the barbules may have been too short/long for that fly and then I put it into an envelope but I don't mark the envelope.

I have a perfect solution for you if you can't yet determine the proper barbule length for the dries you are tying; buy Hoffman or Whiting dry fly saddles in grade #1 & #2. The feathers on these saddles are 6" - 8" long and the barbule length is pretty much the same from the base to the tip of the feather.

You can get saddles that tie #10 - #12, #14 - #16, #18 - #22. There is virtually no waste when you use saddle feathers and you can mark the plastic bag with the size range a particular saddle will tie. A good rule of thumb to determine the right barbule length is it should be one and one half times in length of the gape of the hook. If you remember this you will seldom select the wrong hackle.