

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : First Catskill Style Dry Fly

Re: First Catskill Style Dry Fly

Author: : wbranch

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URL:

PM me your address and I will send you some Hoffmann saddles #1 grade in medium dun, ginger, cream, honey dun, and brown. I have grizzly too but the barbules are so small/short they are only good for #18 - #22. Each feather will be long enough to tie at least three flies. Remember usually with dry flies the adage "less is more". I tend to follow this advice particularly when tying my dry flies. On hooks #14 - #18 I never, ever use more than three turns. Usually one behind the wing and two in front. On some #18's and all #20 - #22 I only use two turns. On #8 - #12 I will use four turns.

Overall your fly is quite good for the first attempt. Much better than the first dry fly I tied over fifty years ago. Tails are typically one shank length, or 1 1/2 the gape width, hackle barbule length is typically 1 1/2 times the gape width. I like my wings to always be a little longer than the hackle.

Clipping hackle barbules to "size" the feather to the hook is generally not done and it looks unprofessional. That being said I don't know if a trout is smart enough to refuse it because the barbules are clipped. It's just something I would never do.

As time goes by you will figure out ways to keep those errant fibers out of the eye and create well proportioned flies. If you ever have any questions relative to tying PM me and I'll help you out.