

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Stimulator Wont Float

Re: Stimulator Wont Float

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Lots of good advice given above. The stimulator can be a challenging pattern to tie. As many above, I also prefer Elk Hair for its added flotation factor. Managing deer and elk while tying can be downright frustrating at times. Focus on your proportions - I prefer about 3X as much material for the wing as the tail. When tying in the wing or tail control must be maintained at the tip end of the hair as well as the thread end while making wraps, cinching it down and locking it in place by running some wraps through the butt ends. I always pinch the tip ends real tight with my off-bobbin thumb and index finger and maintain that control until it is locked in place. The second you leave go of the tip ends you lose control of that end. You can also angle trim your body hackle on top so that the wing lays a bit closer to the hook. After the wing is tied in the first couple of wraps of dubbing on the thorax can also be used to tighten down on a few of those wild wing hairs.

The stimulator is an awesome pattern in fast water mainly due to its visibility - the fish usually hammer it because if they snooze - they lose. So getting them tied so that they float well under those conditions can be very productive. Keep practicing - you will start to gain confidence in working with deer and elk hair over time. Good luck!