

COFTG Zoom Tying, April 29, 2021 5PM PST

TLF BWO Soft-Hackle Dry Fly, Presented by: Jerry Criss

The TLF soft-hackle style dry fly started over 11 years ago and has evolved over time into what you see here. It contains the size #18 to #22 dry fly hackle in the thorax and a light dun hen feather for hackle collar. I believe that it represents the emerger or crippled mayfly. The size of the thorax hackle can vary depending on what you see on the water, so match your hatch as far as body and hackle color. I have found these flies will bring fish up before a hatch really gets going and do very well after a hatch as ended. My challenge to you is take your best dry fly tail and body and then build the rest of fly like the dressing below; put in a thorax, the thorax hackle and a soft-hackle feather, and let's see what happens.

“TLF BWO Soft-Hackle Dry”



Hook: Standard dry fly hook #18 to #12

Thread: Dun or grey 14/0 Sheer

Tail: Coq De Leon 4 to 6 fibers or micro-fibers, depending on the size of the fly.

Body: Lt. Dun and little Lt. olive super fine dry fly dubbing, mixed.

Rib: Lt Cahill 14/0 Sheer twisted tight.

Thorax: Brown/Olive mixed super fine dubbing, this is the only place to add a little ice dubbing if you wanted a little flash.

Thorax Hackle: #18 to #22 dry fly hackle, Furnace or Dun, depending on the size.

Hackle Collar: Lt. dun to dark dun hen hackle

- 1- Lock in the thread about eye width from the eye and wind rearward laying down a thread base about half down the hook shank.

- 2- Tye in the Coq De Leon tailing material, and the ribbing thread, keeping the tail material on top of the hook and tucking the ribbing thread to bottom of the hook shank, now wrap tying thread to the barb of the hook, tail length should be at least the hook of gap.
- 3- Dub the super fine dubbing and wind forward, forming a tapered body to the 2/3 point on the hook. Bring the ribbing forward in even wraps to tye off point of the body. Note: keep the body slim, this makes a real difference.
- 4- Tye in the thorax hackle and then dub the thorax, leaving enough room for the hackles. Now take 2 wraps of the dry fly hackle forward right through the thorax dubbing, leaving a gap between the wraps large enough for the one wrap of the collar hackle that will go there, and tye off.
- 5- Tye in the hen hackle feather by the tip on the side of the shank nearest you. Take your first wrap straight over the top of the hook and as you bring the feather up from the bottom ease into the gap you created in the dry fly hackle. As you come over the top with the hen feather ease your way back to the front of the first wrap of the hen feather and complete that wrap and tye off with a nice neat head.

TLF Soft-Hackle Cripple with quill wing



Hook: Curved scud hook, heavy wire #18 to #12

Thread: Dun or grey 14/0 Sheer

Tail: 2 or 3 Coq De Leon or micro fibets, depending on the hatch.

Body: Lt. to Med. Dun super fine dubbing, color to match the hatch.

Rib: Fine copper wire

Legs: Partridge light grey, or hen feather to match the hatch, length to the bend of the hook.

Wing: Lt. Dun Mallard quill section, mallard breast feather folded or dry fly tips, length to just inside the hook bend.

- 1- Start the thread just behind the hook eye and wind it back towards the bend of the hook, stopping before the hook barb.
- 2- Tye in the tailing material and spread them a little.
- 3- Tye in the wire rib and then dub the body forward, leaving room for the legs and the wing.
- 4- Wind the rib forward and tye off building a smooth surface for the legs and wing.
- 5- Tye the leg feather in by the tip and wrap it forward 2 complete turns and tye it off. Now spread the top of the leg hackle making a space for the wings.
- 6- Take sections half as wide as the hook gap from a matched pair of mallard, wing feathers and tye them in wet wing style over the body
- 7- Finish with neat head of thread

“Good Luck and Good Hunting”, Jerry Criss

Tips and Tricks

- 1- How to take large soft-hackle feathers and tye them to match a smaller hook.
- 2- How to fold a mallard breast feather for use as a wet-style laid back wing.
- 3- Demonstrate how the TLF “Hacklemaster” tool is used to mix different fly tying materials for fly tying. Examples: fur and feathers, feathers from different birds, feathers and dubbings, as well as multi-colors of the same bird.

About Jerry Criss

I retired to Central Oregon from California in 2004, because it was time. I have been fly fishing and fly tying since the early 80's. It has become what I do and I teach fly tying and fly fishing as a way of passing on what has been taught to me by all those who have blessed my life since taking on this incredible sport. Without the basic techniques that were instilled in me by, my mentor Andre' Puyan's who demanded the best from me every time, because he felt the fish deserved that. I now feel that each and every time I put a hook in a vise.

I tie and teach flies with a passion, I teach the classic techniques that made the craft what it is today, and strive to make them better if possible and find ways to do things, that's what passion does too you. In 2009 I was named, "2009 Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International, Fly Tyer of Year" for my teaching, promoting and dedication to the craft of fly tying. I have received other awards here in the USA and in Europe for my ability to be creative, and forward thinking, but never forgetting those who have tyed before.