How to Tie!!

The Humpy Encyclopedia

More Than A Dozen Ways To Tie A Humpy

by

Gretchen & Al Beatty

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DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to two great fly tiers who introduced us to hair-wing flies and the Humpy particular in the early 80s—Darwin Atkin & Frank Johnson. With their help we turned a love of tying Humpies into a vocation that has spanned many years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the many fly tiers we've known over the years who have willingly shared their knowledge with us. A special thank you goes to Judy Lehmberg for giving us our first book publishing assignment; to Gary LaFontaine for his wit, wisdom, and help with our writing careers; and to Karen Royer for pointing us down the print-on-demand, self-publishing path. Also, we must recognize Chris Bessler and his talented crew at Keokee Creative Group for introducing us to the print media world more than 30 years ago.

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Introduction

Inspirational ideas can materialize when you least expect them so for years we used a small spiral-bound note pad to capture them before another fleeting thought pushed an important concept aside. Al well remembers watching Frank Johnson tie hair-wing flies at fly fishing shows in the early '80s. Frank was a master tier willing to share with anyone wanting to learn and Al was a sponge soaking up that knowledge. Soon the two became fast friends and in time Al was able to also share knowledge with Frank as he broadened his own skills.

During this same point in time Idaho Falls fly tier, Bruce Staples asked Al to demonstrate at a regional fly-fishing show. Al had been tying hair-wing flies commercially for several years so he shared his knowledge on the subject with the attendees. Of course, much of that knowledge was information Al learned from Frank in previous years along with skills acquired while tying many dozen flies for area fly shops.

Not long after that first regional show Darwin Atkin (then fly-tying chair for the national Federation of Fly Fisher's (FFF) Conclave in West Yellowstone, Montana) contacted Bruce asking if he knew of any talented local tiers he could recommend as a demonstration fly tier. He shared Al's name with Darwin and in 1986 he demonstrated at his first national FFF Conclave. He has demonstrated at every event ever since with the exception of two years when he was unable to attend the function.

When we got married in 1993 we merged our fly-tying skills soon becoming a recognized fly-tying couple. We traveled the world over teach those skills at many fly-tying functions. In time we decided to see if we could translate our skills at the vise into the written word with the hope of becoming proficient at sharing our at-the-vise ability with others via writting. The concept worked and here we are today in 2019 working on this book—number fifteen (give or take) if our memory is accurate.

Before we leave this introduction section, we want to acknowledge an unknown fly tier who was tying an order of Humpies at Pat & Sig Barnes Fly Shop in West Yellowstone the same year Al met Frank Johnson. Al spent a number of hours watching him (we think his name was Tom) turn out dozen-after-dozen Humpies. After watching him and Frank (later at the show), Al left West Yellowstone determined to become a great Humpy tier. We'll leave it to all of you to decide if he was successful or not!

Why We Wrote This Book

Why we write any particular book is not always an easy question to answer but that is not the case with *The Humpy Encyclopedia.* Quite frankly it is long over due. We can't tell you the number of times we've been asked how many ways there are to tie this fly. Al was asked the question numerous times at the many shows he attended before we got married and since then the comment comes up at least a couple of times per year. In fact, it's one of the main reasons we wrote our second book, *Tying Hair-Wing Flies* in 1995. Within the pages of *"Flies,"* we demonstrated two ways to tie the fly and they were the sum total of what we had in our Humpy bag-of-tricks.

Since '95 we've learned a lot about tying this often "frustrating bundle of hair." The first thing we discovered was the mistaken impression the fly had to be tied out of hair. We found some synthetics produced a better, more durable, and higher floating fly than hair did. In time that discovery got the hair version kicked out of our personal fly boxes. Its replacement is the Poly Humpy with several variations; you'll find them all in these pages; just check the Table of Contents.

This book provides only a few of many methods that will produce a good looking and fish catching Humpy. We hope the more than 12 patterns herein will only be a stepping stone to techniques you can use to develop your own way of tying this fly and will also remove some of the frustration it often brings to the vise.

Don't make the mistake of deciding you are already a very experienced tier and skip the next chapter (Chapter 1—Materials) so you can get right to tying flies. The information therein can really help avoid the frustration that can be caused by starting your Humpy tying adventure without knowing the pattern's foundation principles.

One of those important principles is selecting the proper material for the job at hand when the pattern in question is constructed from animal hair (moose, deer, elk, calf, etc.). That consideration is not as important when using synthetics materials but … you knew that was coming … like natural materials, not all synthetics are equal.

When you have the correct material another important consideration is how it's applied to the hook. Do you use more hair on the tail of a size #10 than you do a size #18? We sure do and you probably do as well. Do you count those fibers to maintain

consistency from one hook size to another? That is one way to get the proportions correct but we think we have a better method. You'll have to decide if our measurement technique works for you or not. In any case, we state again, "Skip the next chapter ONLY if you are adventurous or have already read our book, *Tying Hair-Wing Flies.*" Chapter 1— Materials will take a few of the potholes out of the road in your journey down the ubiquitous Humpy Highway. Besides, it's starting on the next page so it's not like you have to go any distance looking for it.

Before leaving on that journey, let's discuss a little business. Writing a book like this takes us months and entails a lot of work. We hate to ask but a small donation (like $5.00) would sure help us continue bringing this type of knowledge to all of you. If you can afford a donation, you may do so through our PayPal Account. If you would rather you can send a donation directly to us at Gretchen & Al Beatty, 11965 W Reutzel Dr, Boise, ID 83709.

You can print this free PDF version: instructions are included in the last chapter. Or order a paperback version from Amazon if you are page flipper rather than a mouse clicker but it won't be free. Sorry, but Amazon doesn't work that way!

Anyway, we suggest a donation but if it's not in the cards for you, no problem. Enjoy what we have to offer in *The Humpy Encyclopedia*. We think you will find tying this fly can be as easy or hard as you want to make it. Enjoy your adventure!

Chapter 1—Materials
Selection-Preparation-Proportions

Material Selection

As in any construction project, and fly tying is just a construction project, you need to know and understand your materials. We believe when constructing any hair-wing fly selecting the proper material and understanding its proper use is seventy-five percent of the battle and technique is really only about twenty-five percent. The tying principles we teach are really very simple if they are applied to the material appropriate for the job.

HAIR SELECTION: With that idea in mind we will present information that is critical about each type of our most important material, animal hair. In hair-pattern section(s) of *The Humpy Encyclopedia,* we use deer, elk, moose, calf tail, calf body, and squirrel tail. With these simple materials, and a few others, you can tie any hair-wing dry fly and a Humpy is exactly that, a hair-wing dry fly (most of the time anyway). Selecting the right type of hair or feather for a particular function is our focus in this chapter.

DEER HAIR: Of the animal hairs mentioned above, novice hair-wing tiers have the most difficulty learning to tie with deer and calf tail. Because the reasons for the difficulty with these two types of hair are different, we will focus our attention on deer hair now and deal with calf tail later in this chapter.

Deer and elk hair, because of the hollow structure of the fiber, both have a natural tendency to flare when tied to a hook. In constructing most of the patterns in *"Tying Hair Wing Flies"* we want to control this natural tendency. Controlling hair flare is accomplished in part through tying technique but starting with the right hair is critical to your success as well.

The best deer hair for controlling hair flare is located on the hide in a fourteen-inch strip along the backbone, down on the shoulder and also over the rump. Honestly, there are very few of you who have access to a complete hide when selecting your hair. Most of you get your deer hair from a fly shop and determining from what part of the animal the little square of hair came is next to impossible. There are, however, properties we can use for selection of the correct hair for wings and tails on hair-wing flies.

They are quality of the hair fiber, amount of underfur, density or shape of the fiber, and coloration along the length of the fiber. Each is equally important in selecting the right hair for the job.

The quality of the patch of deer hair is easily evaluated by looking very closely at the individual hair fibers. Look first at the tip ends of the hair. Use a magnifying glass if it will help you see the details. You should not see any broken ends. The tips should all come to a distinct, black point.

Next, you should focus on the hair fiber itself. It should be straight. On many hair patches the hair is so thick it stands up at an angle from the hide and then turns and flattens out at the tip end. This type of hair looks straight but is in fact curved on the very end and is difficult to control.

Curved hair tends to happen more often with a tanned hide than it does on a raw hide because the hide itself can shrink in the tanning process. You can tell the difference between a tanned hide and a raw hide by comparing their flexibility. The tanned hide is much more flexible while the raw hide is usually stiff as a board. Look very closely at the hair on a tanned hide before buying it. We still prefer using tanned hides because they are cleaner, brighter and free of insect infestation. Some raw hides have been cured with Borax which can cause skin irritation for some tiers with sensitive skin. It is really easy to overlook the slight curve in the tip section of the hair so be careful!

The short, small hair and underfur is sometimes called "duff" and is present to a more or lesser degree in all animal hair. It is what the animal grows to keep warm in the winter and then loses each spring in preparation for the warmth of summer. Although it is tempting to keep as many fibers as possible, eliminating under fur is CRITICAL to successfully tying with hair.

How we remove underfur is reviewed later. The point we want to make here is to pay special attention to the amount of underfur in a patch of hair. You can tell whether the animal was harvested early or late in the season by observing the amount of duff. If you have an opportunity to get an early season hide, take it! You'll be amazed how much easier it is to remove the duff.

Density and shape of the hair fiber also are good indicators of when the animal was harvested. Hair from a summer harvest is much thinner at the base than the hair fiber from a winter harvest. Hair thickness is a good indicator of the amount of flare in the fibers of a piece of hair. The thicker the base of the hair fiber, the more it will flare. And controlling hair flare is our goal in tying good quality Humpies.

In addition to what we have already stated, the shape and color of the hair fibers are good indicators of the amount it will flare. It also identifies the general area where the hair was located on the animal's hide.

Look at the deer-hair fibers as illustrated in Figure 1.1-Deer-Hair Fibers. We've cut and stacked several deer-hair fibers with the tips on the left and the bases on the right of the illustration. As we progress along the hair fibers, the blackness of the point is followed by a small, lighter-colored band. We call the black point and the lighter-colored band the tip of the fiber. The light band in the tip varies in color from animal to animal and from one species to another. For example, it is typically a reddish tan in a whitetail deer and a grayish tan in a mule deer. Because this band of color is near the tip of the hair and because of the way the hair lies on the animal, it is the color the deer appears to an observer.

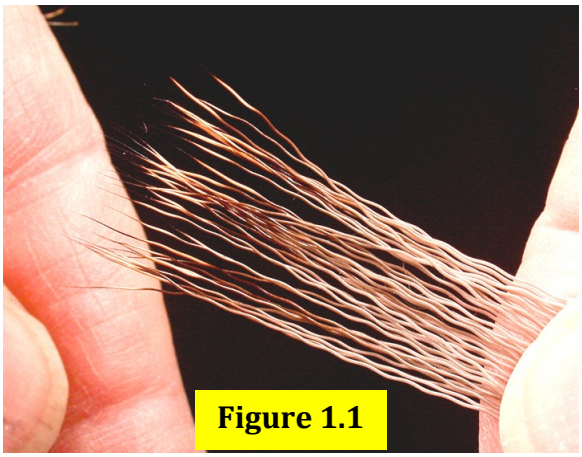


Figure 1.1

Again as we progress along the hair fiber, the next section is much darker than the rest. We call this the middle section of the hair fiber. It is usually a dark gray, brown in color. The dark gray gradually gives away to a light gray at the very base of the fiber where it joins the hide. Let's put this information together and select our deer hair.

Assume you are in a fly shop in front of a large bin of deer hair that has been cut into two-by-three inch rectangles. Pick up a patch of hair and look at it carefully using the information in the last several paragraphs.

First, the tips should come to a nice, even point. If the use of a magnifying glass helps you see more clearly don't hesitate to use one. If broken tips are evident, discard the patch immediately and look for another. Keep searching until you find a patch with good hair tips.

If possible remember to select hair that has straight fibers. Sometimes curved hair may be your only option rather than hair with physical damage or less desirable LDCR (description to follow). You can straighten curved hair as instructed later in this chapter.

Next look at the overall coloration of the hair fibers. You need a patch of hair that has fibers with a long dark-colored middle section and the shortest light-colored base

section as possible. We call this comparison the Light to Dark Color Ratio (LDCR). Select as many patches as you can find with a hair-fiber middle section of at least fifty percent dark LDCR and set them aside. See **Figure 1.2** and note the clump of hair on the right as **compared** to the lighter clump on the left.

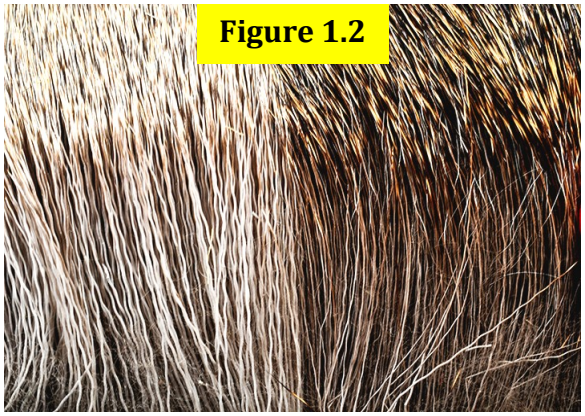


Figure 1.2

After you have selected several patches of hair, focus your attention on them. Look for the patches with the least amount of underfur and the best LDCR percentage. Purchase the patches you need from this group. If you are really lucky, you will find several. Buy them now, you may not find them later!

ELK HAIR: Elk hair is very similar to deer hair. And we use all of the same considerations when selecting it—quality, density or shape, color and underfur. Because the construction of elk hair is basically identical to deer, we will focus our attention on the major difference between the two hair colorations.

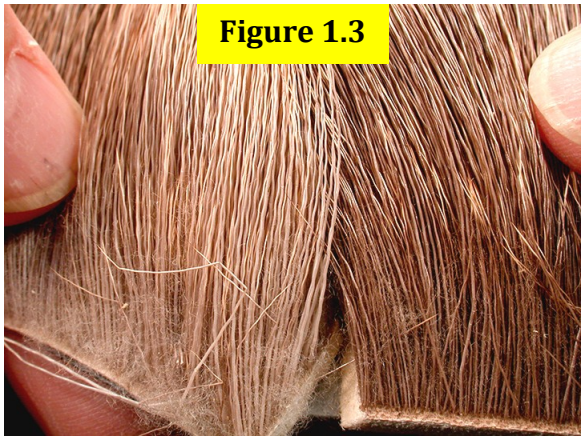


Figure 1.3

Just as we reviewed the quality of the deer hair by traveling along the hair fiber, we do the same with a fiber of elk hair. Like deer hair, elk hair also has a very dark point on the end of the hair fiber. But from this point, the coloration between the two is very different and the sex of the animal can also affect the fiber color.

On deer hair as soon as you leave the point of the hair fiber you encounter a small, tan-colored band before getting to the darker middle section. If you remember, we called the dark point together with the lighter band the tip of the deer hair. With elk hair, as soon as you leave the dark point, you go straight into the middle section of the hair fiber. This middle section is usually tan in color but can be any shade from light to very dark. Whether the hair comes from a cow or a bull directly affects the color. Usually, cow hair is lighter as described above. The bull's hair is much darker and in some situations looks much more like a whitetail deer. See **Figure 1.3—**the bull elk is on the right and the cow elk is on the left.

From the middle section, we progress into a dark gray zone which fades into the light gray area of the fiber's base. Here is where we use the LDCR percentage just as we did

selecting the patch of deer. The darker portion of the hair does not flare as much as the lighter colored portion of the hair fiber. At the very base of the hair fiber deer and elk hair act the same when applied to a hook; if it is light gray it will flare. For the most part, we need not concern ourselves with this section of the hair because we discard it when tying Humpies. However, when you venture into other hair flies, we use this hair for spinning parts of the body, but that's not a discussion for this book.

When selecting elk hair to tie hair-wing, dry flies you use the same criteria as used for deer hair. No broken points, straight hair fibers and minimal amounts of underfur are your goals. Also, be certain to select a patch of hair with the longest dark middle section you can find—at least fifty percent LDCR if possible.

MOOSE HAIR: Moose hair is the easiest of all hair for tying. For this reason we call it the fly-tiers' friend. Moose is much denser hair. Consequently, it doesn't flare as much as other animal hair when tied to the hook. As a tailing material, it is unequaled because it is a fairly stiff hair. It is also an excellent wing material in some applications but is not the focus herein.

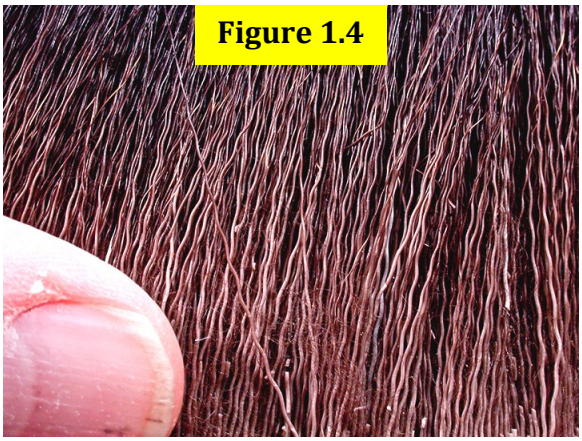


Figure 1.4

When selecting moose hair you only need to concern yourself with two things. Is the hair straight? Is it body hair or mane hair? For the patterns in this book, you need body hair. Avoid the mane hair because it is too long to easily tie hair-wing patterns.

When you are in a fly shop or at the taxidermists picking out your moose hair just be sure the hair is straight. After that take it home and tie with it. Moose hair really is "the fly-tiers' friend."

CALF-TAIL HAIR: Most tiers find tying with calf tail difficult and may even avoid it because it seems unmanageable and has a mind of its own. Gretchen often recounts her first experience tying a calf-tail wing. It was not a pretty sight because she tried to use too much of the shorter hairs that are similar to the duff in deer hair. Lesson learned. In *The Humpy Encyclopedia,* we show you how to take some of the mystery out of this material.

Figure 1.5

Tail hair **Body hair**

As in all of the other hairs selecting the best material is critical to your fly tying success. In reaching this objective you need to check only two things, hair quality, and hair straightness. Because calf tail is a very dense hair it doesn't flare so this isn't one of the things you need to consider when making your selection.

Checking calf tails for hair quality is no different than for any other hair. Make sure it is bright, clean and free of any broken ends. Because calf-tail hair is very fine the broken tips are much harder to see. So, check very carefully.

The most difficult part of selecting calf-tail hair is finding hair that is straight. We have found that one calf tail in ten will only be marginal at best. And you need to check twenty-five or more to find a tail with good straight hair. Finding a good calf tail doesn't involve skill as much as it involves luck. Later in the section on Preparation, we describe a method to straighten the hair on a marginal quality calf tail. We also review other techniques that make the hair more manageable.

CALF-BODY HAIR: Finding good quality calf-body hair (right in **Figure 1.5** on the previous page) is a much easier job than finding a good calf tail. That is probably one reason why many fly tiers prefer it. The trade off between the two is the poorer floatation of the calf-body hair than with the calf tail.

When selecting which piece of calf-body hair you want to purchase, you need to be concerned with only two basic considerations. Because calf body hair is shorter than calf tail is the hair long enough to do the job and is the hair straight? When you have answered both questions you have the piece of calf-body hair you need. Broken hair tips are not as big of a problem with body hair as it is with tail hair but it is still a good idea to check.

Figure 1.6

SQUIRREL TAIL: Like calf-body hair, squirrel tails are easy to select. The same two criteria are important—length and straightness. However broken hair tips can be a concern so check the tail closely for this problem before buying it.

HACKLE SELECTION: You have just learned in the preceding section the importance of picking the right hair for the right job and hackle is no different. We feel it is also a lot easier to select the right hackle than it is to select the right hair.

To better understand hackle selection we start by describing a typical dry-fly hackle

feather to you and what you should look for when making your selection. On a very basic look at the feather, it has three parts to review closely. They are the stem, the web, and the hackle fiber. See **Figure 1.7**.

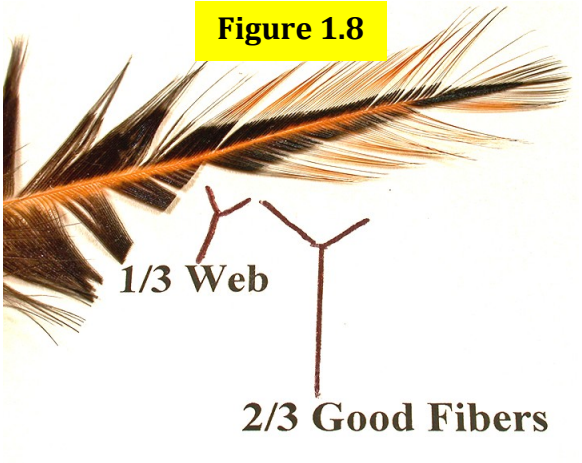
Figure 1.7

The stem should not be so thick and brittle that it breaks when you wrap it. It should also be long enough so you can get at least five or six turns around the hook. The web is the next concern. It is the dense, fuzzy part of the fiber located next to the stem and is much wider at the base of the feather tapering to none at the feather's tip.

As fly tiers, our concern is the actual hackle fiber. It is the shiny, spiky part of the fiber. How much of the feather contains this fiber and how stiff the fibers are determines the hackle quality. A feather that has a large majority of the nice spiky fibers is considered good and the reverse is true if there are just a few.

You might ask, "Which part of the feather do I use and what part is discarded?" Please refer to **Figure 1.8.** Note that you start using the feather at a point along the stem where the web is one-third and the stiff, shiny part is two-thirds of the fiber's length. After trimming (or stripping) and discarding the unusable portion you should still be able to make five or six turns around the hook. If you are unable to do so you are working with a poor quality dry-fly hackle.

Figure 1.8



In the past, whether you use saddle or neck hackle was usually determined by the size of fly you were tying. Today the improvement in hackle quality renders that statement less true. Please note the above statement is based on the use of domestic genetic hackle. It has been our experience that on the average, import and farm-yard hackle is too poor in quality to use on dry flies.

If you are tying flies in a significant range of sizes, a cape may be the best choice. For our commercial tying, we most frequently use saddles since we tie many flies in one size. Some hackle producers now sell quarter saddles and half capes. If available these

may be good options for you.

SOURCES: One of the fun things about being a fly tier is your constant search for materials and the unique places you find them. Your normal sources for hackle, hair, hides, tails, etc. include mail-order catalogs, fly-fishing specialty stores, and taxidermists. The key word in the last sentence is "normal."

There are many other places not considered normal to find fly-tying materials. They include craft stores, second-hand stores, yard sales, farmers, trading with friends, etc. The list is almost endless.

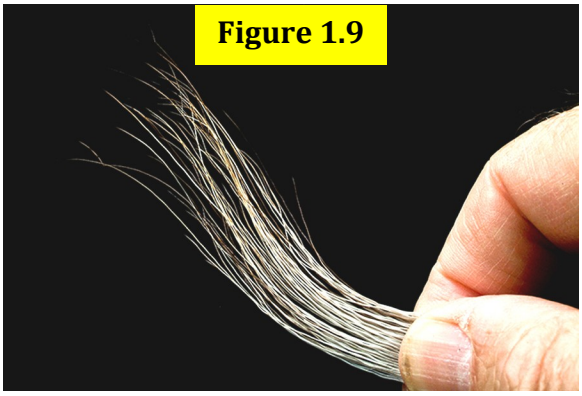
As an example, after thirty-five years locating materials we have discovered that the Internet is a good research tool. The fly-fishing sites on the Internet are many and often list contacts with organizations and individuals looking for, trading or selling materials. To access these sites do an Internet Google search. One drawback is you cannot actually touch the material but you'll be in for a real fly-fishing and fly-tying treat with all of the information and exchange of ideas. Always have your eye open for that new material source. You never know when opportunity will knock.

Material Preparation

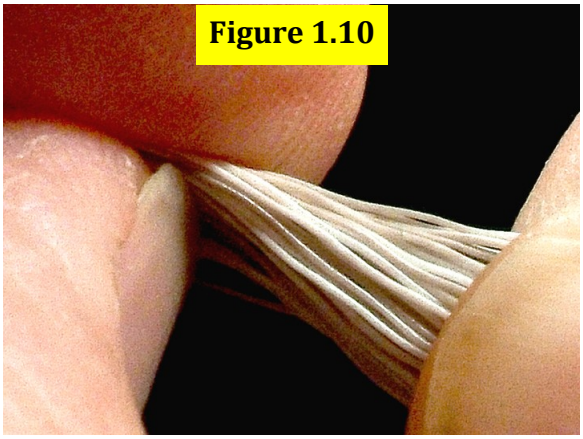
Where you get your fly-tying hair can affect the amount of preparation you will need to do before tying with it. If you harvest the animal yourself, you have considerable work to do before applying the hair to the hook and it is not our purpose in this book to teach you how to deal with a fresh hide. On the other hand, the little patches of hair already in a package at a fly shop have much of the preparation completed for you. What you need to decide when preparing your hair is what process presented in this chapter is appropriate. Be very certain though to **read** the section about **static electricity**.

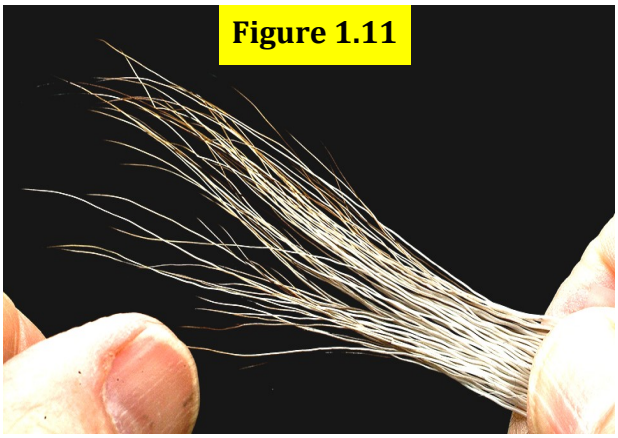
Your first major concern is cleanliness. You can usually assume a tanned hide is fairly clean and all you need to do is dust a little talcum powder over the piece of hair and work it into the fibers. Talcum powder will make the fibers slide easier in the stacking process and it is also good for your hands. If you have sensitive skin and the tanned hair seems to bother you, vacuum the hide. You will need to wash most raw hides in hot soapy water. We use a hair conditioner on the hair after we have rinsed out the soap and before the final rinse. Comb the wet hair before you dry it to be sure the fibers are straight. Tack and stretch the hide on a board with the hair side down and the flesh side facing out. Leave it for a day or so until it is completely dry. Dust the hair with talcum powder working it into the fibers. This may seem to be a lot of trouble but it will pay off when you start tying flies.

It's not uncommon to find your patch-of-hair has fibers that are less-than-straight like those illustrated here in **Figure 1.**9. Should you find the need, you can straighten the hair in several ways. Deer and elk hair can often be straighten by holding the patch-of-hair over a steaming kettle and running a comb through the fibers. This process works well if the crooked hair is the result of accidental-but-minor damage to the fibers.



If it's a processing problem like the slight curve at the tip of the hair sometimes caused in the tanning process then the steam method is less effective. Another method of straightening the hair is to pull the unstacked hair clump between the thumb and fore-finger of one hand bending in the direction opposite the curve of the fibers**.** The third method is by using your thumbnail and a forefinger to apply a series of crimps in the hair. The crimps are applied to the outside of the curve illustrated in **Figure 1.10**. The result is a clump of hair that is fairly straight like those in **Figure 1.11**.





You will need to chemically straighten naturally curly hair like calf tail. Hair straight-ening kits are available at most beauty supply houses and drug stores. These products, although a bit expensive, work very well if you follow the instructions.

Bleaching and dying materials are two things that go hand in hand. Many fly tiers will never get into this process and that is O.K. because there are many professionals who can do it for you. If, however, you are one of those tiers who **must** do it for yourself here are some tips to help cut the costs and improve the probability of your success.

First, you need stainless-steel containers and utensils. What we have found works well

for small jobs are a stainless-steel soup pot, tongs, rubber gloves, newspaper, a drying board, and thumbtacks.

You will often need to bleach the piece of hair or the hackle before you can dye it. If there is one rule in dyeing it is that **you cannot make something lighter with dye, only darker.** That's why you usually have to bleach the material first. You can buy bleaching kits at the same places that sell straightening kits but they are a bit expensive. An inexpensive formula we use to bleach hair or feathers is one part hydrogen peroxide to two parts of non-suds ammonia. The formula will work very slowly because the hydrogen peroxide available in most drug stores is only a three-percent solution. This three-percent formula takes about six days to bleach a piece of black moose hair to a light cream color and about three days to bleach deer hair to the same color. You can shorten the processing time if you use the stronger solutions available from a beauty-supply house or a mortician. For very delicate feathers and fibers, we recommend Rit color remover —if unsure test a small portion first. Whatever you use for your formula be sure to wash any dirt and grease out of the material before you start the process.

The dying process itself is really very simple. After washing the material, heat your water in the soup pot to 140 degrees, pour in the dye and stir following the instructions on the package. Some commercial and professional dyes work better if dissolved in about a cup of water first. Next, pour in one fourth-cup of white vinegar to set the dye and then place the material in the dye bath. Leave it in the dye bath until it is the color you want. That time could be as little as ten minutes for light colors like yellow or as long as twenty-four hours for a dark color like black. Remove the material from the bath, wash it in cold water and dry it as described earlier in this chapter. Do not try to reuse the dye. The results will not be the same.

Early in our explanation on bleaching and dying, we listed newspaper as one of the items you need. Cover your work area by spreading the newspaper over it. This will make clean-up easier. There is nothing more difficult to clean-up than a dye that has dripped on a counter top, stove or floor. If you do spill some on the counter or floor try using a non-grit cleaner containing bleach but proceed with caution so you don’t end up with a section of your counter that is much lighter than the rest. Ask us how we know! On second thought, just don’t ask; it’s a touchy subject!!

STATIC ELECTRICITY: Static electricity is one of the biggest roadblocks in tying flies with animal hair, but it is also one of the easiest to eliminate. Static Guard is a product available in any grocery store in the laundry section. It is manufactured to remove static electricity from clothing and works equally well on fly-tying materials. We start every tying session by spraying us, the tying materials, and tools with Static Guard.

If you are not familiar with Static Guard (**Figure 1. 12)** you should make its acquaintance. Some people find the Static Guard spray offensive to their respiratory system. If you are one of these people, another way to remove static electricity is by using the little white or pink pads that you put in the clothes dryer to keep your clothing from sticking together. At the start of a tying session simply wipe your hands, materials, and tools with one of these pads. Leave the pad lying in your lap where you can easily access it if there is a need. It's a good idea to touch your hands, tools, and materials to the pad from time to time to keep static electricity at bay.

HACKLE: Hackle, for the most part, does not require further preparation after you purchase it. If on the other hand, you harvest your own there is significant work involved; more on that in a moment.

Import hackle is always an option especially if you tie flies in sizes ranging from #4 through #14. If you use import saddle hackle you will find the sizes ranging from #4 through #8 with a few #10's as well. The necks have the same sizes and even have a few #12's and #14's. Their initial cost is much less than genetic hackle. However, if you tie a lot of flies a half of a genetic neck will produce more flies in a wider range of sizes for about the same price. You just need to decide what fits your particular needs. Illustrated in **Figure 1.13** are (from the left) genetic hackle cape, genetic hackle saddle patch, and an important hackle cape (from India).

We feel genetic hackle gives the tier the best range of sizes, colors and a higher number of flies tied for the dollar spent. However, the upfront investment is much higher than purchasing imported hackle. As we stated in the previous paragraph, you need to decide what fits your needs.

Harvesting your hackle from the rooster you plan on eating for Sunday's dinner is really a lot more trouble than it is worth. The hackle quality is usually very poor as well. If you make a decision to do this then you need to skin the cape and the saddle. After you complete that project, you must scrape the fat off the hide, then wash, rinse, stretch, and dry it just like we described earlier in this chapter in the section on HAIR.

Some of the fly tiers we know have started growing their own hackle and that requires a major commitment. You must first build individual pens for each bird, provide water to the pens, and tend the birds every day. We have visited several hackle growing operations, both large and small, and decided in very quick order that buying already-harvested hackle was a lot simpler than trying to raise our own.

As with hair, you can work miracles on damaged hackle or any feather for that matter with the steam kettle. Upon returning from a fly tying seminar recently, we found a good quality neck in a box under a dozen fly-tying vises. Although the neck did not look as if we could ever salvage it, only five minutes over the steam kettle returned it to like-new condition. Try this technique; we think you will be really pleased with it. If you want a real treat, just see what it will do to peacock herl. You'll be amazed!

Dry Fly Proportions

There are many different methods used to determine if you have enough hair to make a tail or wings. Some people use a gauge to make that determination, others count fibers and many just tie the hair on the hook but are concerned because no two flies look the same. We use a very simple gage, the hook itself and it is always in front of you when tying flies. We will explain how to use it in the next few paragraphs.

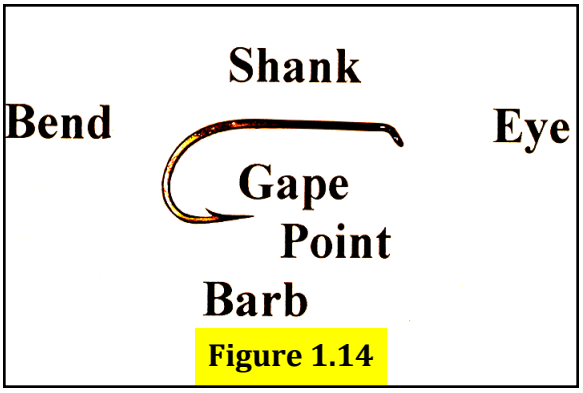


Figure 1.14

Figure 1.14 is an illustration of a hook with the different parts identified. The parts are the eye, shank, bend, barb, point, and gape. To maintain consistency in our flies we use one or more parts of the hook to help determine the length, amount and position of the materials. Also, it is easily found anchored in the vise jaws so we don't have to look for it.

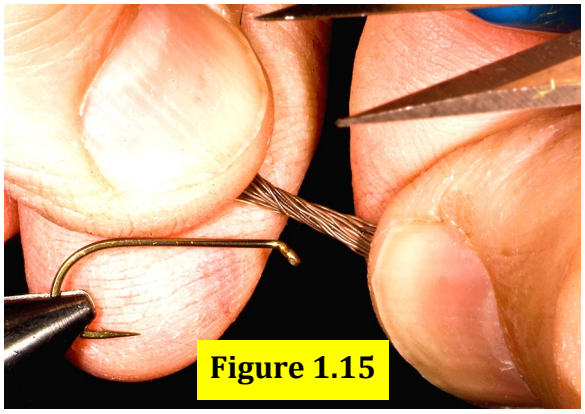


Figure 1.15

THE TAIL: A hair-wing, dry fly tail has two properties—diameter and length. We use the hook eye to determine the diameter. Select, clean, and stack a bundle of hair. Hold the butt ends with the right thumb and forefinger. Grab the tips of the hair fibers with the left thumb and forefinger. Rotate the two hands in the opposite directions twisting the fibers one-half turn as illustrated in **Figure 1.15**. This step should tighten the fiber bundle somewhat.

Now compare the diameter of the fibers at the twist-over point—they should be the same diameter as the outside of the hook eye. By comparing the eyes on a size #10 and a size #18 hook, it becomes quite obvious we need more hair fibers on the #10 than on the #18.

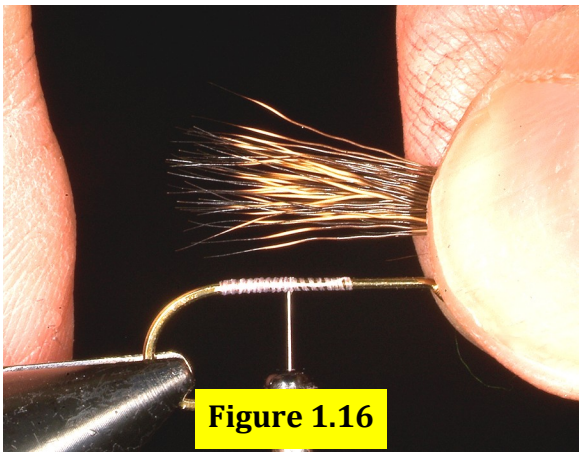


Figure 1.16

Once the proper amount of hair for the tail has been established, the length must be determined. This step is easier to explain. The length of a hair tail is equal to the span of the hook shank (illustrated in **Figure 1.16**) and protrudes from the rear of the hook like the one in **Figure 1.17** below.

THE WINGS: Although the quantity of hair fibers is the same for divided and Trude style wings, the length of the Trude wings can vary. The individual patterns will detail the variation. Posted-wing flies such as a Humpy or a Royal Wulff all have the same wing length and placement. The length of that type of wing is the same length as the tail—the span of the hook shank and is placed on it one-third of its distance back from the hook eye as indicated in **Figure 1.17**.

The quantity of hair in the wings is very important to the overall balance of posted-wing flies. In other words, it affects how the fly lands on the water. To keep the fly balanced each wing post must be the same size as the tail. So the clump of hair you tie on the hook for the wings must be twice as big as the tail.

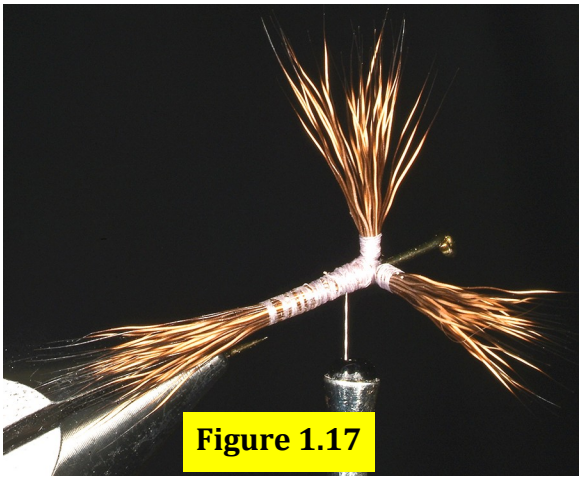


Figure 1.17

There are two ways to determine the proper quantity of hair for the wings. The twist-over process described in the tail section works quite well. Just be certain that the clump of twisted hair is twice as big in diameter as the eye of the hook. This is the method we use. The other way to make this double-the-size determination is to compare the clump of hair to the tail already tied on the hook. Some tiers find this method easier.

On almost all posted-wing flies the wings are tied on the hook shank at a point one-third back from the eye of the hook. The fibers are forced to stand up straight by wrapping a quantity of thread directly in front of the clump of hair. They are then divided

equally into separate wing posts and each is wrapped with several turns of thread to hold them together as illustrated in **Figure 1.17** on the previous page.

Because calf-hair fibers are very dense and much heavier not as much is needed to balance the fly. Our experience indicates a clump of hair about one and one-half times the size of the tail rather than double the tail is all that is needed. Make the comparison using the same techniques described earlier in this chapter.

THE BODY: The body on posted-wing flies like a Humpy covers most of the back two-thirds of the hook shank. Room is left directly behind the wings for several turns of hackle. One exception that comes to mind is the parachute fly. Because the hackle is wrapped around the wing base, not the hook, the body covers the full length of the shank minus the head of the fly.

THE HACKLE: There are three styles of dry-fly hackle, regular, variant, and spider. No matter which style you are tying the gauging of the length of the hackle fiber is determined by making a comparison to the gape of the hook. The rules are pretty straight forward. A regular dry-fly hackle like those we'll be using on a Humpy has barbs equal in length to one and one-half times the width of the gape of the hook like those illustrated here in **Figure 1.18**. W**e** seldom use variant hackle (two times the gape) or spider hackle (three times the gape) on a Humpy but if you decide to do so, this sentence gives you the measurements you'll need.

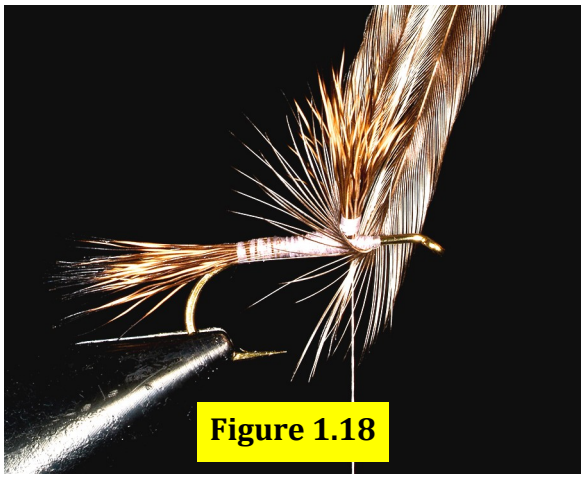


Figure 1.18

THE HEAD: The dry fly should never have a head that is longer than the width of the hook eye illustrated here in **Figure 1.19**. The diameter of the head should be equal to or smaller than the opening of the eye. Because of the additional bulk of the hair, many new hair-wing tiers have a tendency to crowd the head and not allow enough room to finish the fly. A little experience should correct that problem but hair packer can also kind of push materials back a little to recover room at the front of the hook to accommodate the pattern's eye.

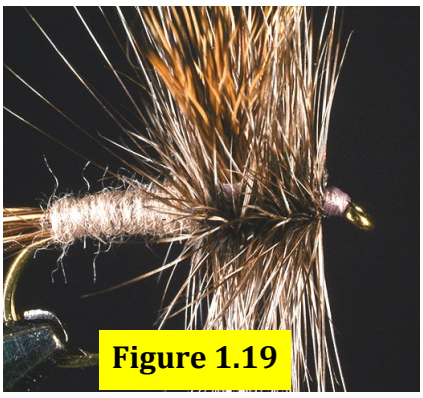


Figure 1.19

Chapter 2 —Standard Humpy

We think the Standard Humpy is the easiest and toughest to tie of the whole darned lineup of patterns we'll discuss in the next few chapters. We understand that statement seems to be a contradiction but we'll explain a little further.

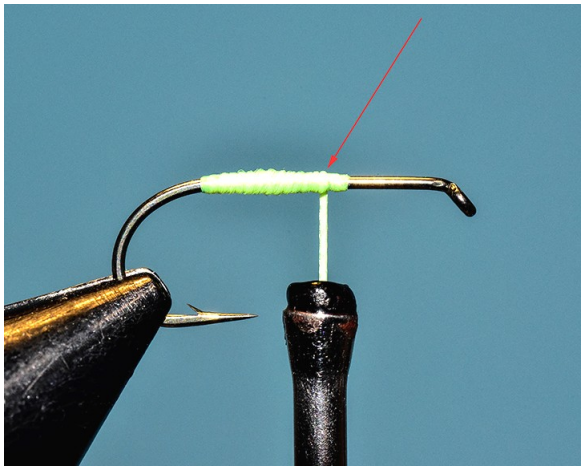
Basically, this fly is a bundle of hair for a tail tied on the hook. We follow that with another bundle of hair pulled over to make the hump leaving what's left over to form the wings. After standing up the wings a few wraps of hackle and the fly is complete. Simple,! Right? Not so fast!

Yes, the Standard Humpy is one of the easiest in the lineup of flies that look similar to the hunch-back of Notre Dame. The problem many people run into when assembling the pattern is measurements and proportions. If you didn't read our introduction chapter and subsequently skipped over Chapter 1 that details the most important aspects of a Humpy, then go back and review it. Pay particular attention to material (hair) selection and fly proportions on pages 22 & 23.

For those of you new to this pattern, we'll really slow down our presentation and explain the process using detailed text with supporting pictures. In future patterns, we'll pick up the tying pace as we advance to those chapters but for now, we'll really explain the process with as much clarity and detail as we think it takes to get the message across. We hope to be successful and are certain you'll let us know if we're not!

Materials— Standard Humpy

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 22
THREAD: Chartreuse (floss & 6/0, color of choice)
TAIL: Moose body hair
BODY: Tying thread (color of choice)
HUMP: Elk body hair
WINGS: Elk body hair (waste from the hump, divided)
HACKLE: Brown
HEAD: Thread (coating with glue optional)

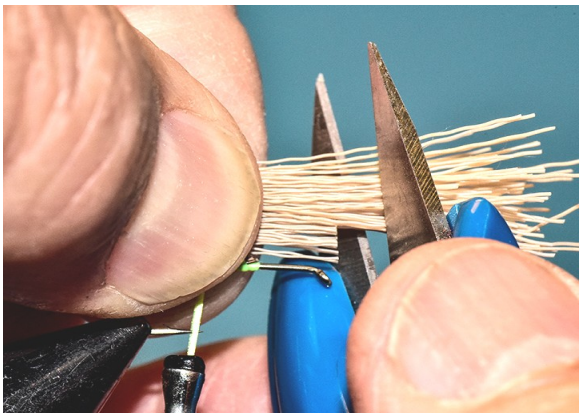


STEP 1 - *Notice in the materials we listed "floss & 6/0" in the "THREAD" section? Over the years we've found using floss for the first part of the fly on sizes #14 and larger really speeds up the tying process. Then we'll switch to 6/0 to finish the fly or use that thread size for the complete fly when it's size #16 or smaller.* Let's start by placing the hook in the vise and applying a thread (floss) base over the back 2/3rds of the shank. From there wrap back forward ALMOST to the starting position.

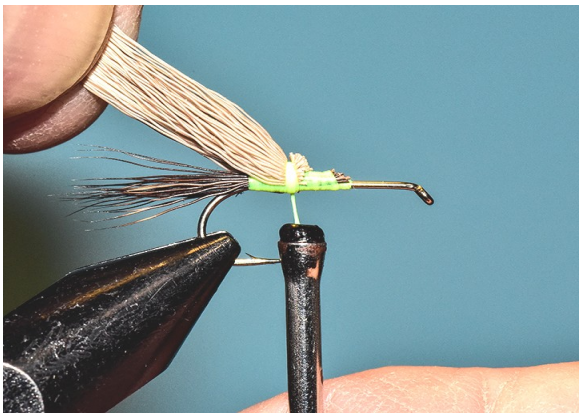
STEP 2 - Select a bundle of **moose** body hair, clean out the "duff" (short fibers & underfur) and even the hair tips in a stacker. Be sure to adjust the number of fibers in the bundle so the resulting tail has the correct size regarding **circumference**. That process is outlined in **Figure 1.15** at the bottom of page 22. *This next measurement will make or break the whole fly so check it carefully.* Measure the tail so it is equal to the hook shank and tie it in place as illustrated. Verify its length by using a spare hook anchored in a hackle pliers as a gage like Al is doing in the photograph. Trim off the tail waste. The trimmed hair ends should be even with the forward part of the thread base. We did not wrap the thread all the way back to the front of the thread base to avoid messing up the wing length and placement in a future step. Leave the thread hanging in the **middle tail section** (underbody) as illustrated.

STEP 3 - Select a bundle of **elk** body hair, clean out the "duff," and even the hair tips in a stacker. Adjust the number of fibers in the bundle so it is about **twice as big** in circumference as the **tail**. This will be a judgment call on your part; if you are not sure, error on the side of fewer fibers rather than too many. Hold the bundle above the hook so its tips are even with the end of the tail as illustrated. In the illustration, Al has placed his scissors to show where he will cut away the waste elk hair in the next step.

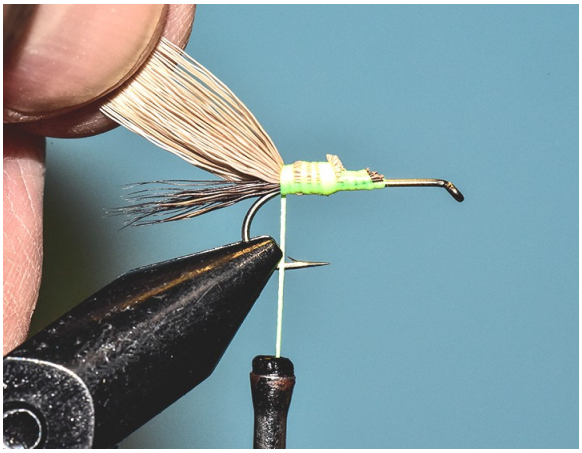
STEP 4 - In this picture, Al has switched to his left hand to hold the hair in place and is in the process of cutting off the waste elk hair **even** with the front of the hook.

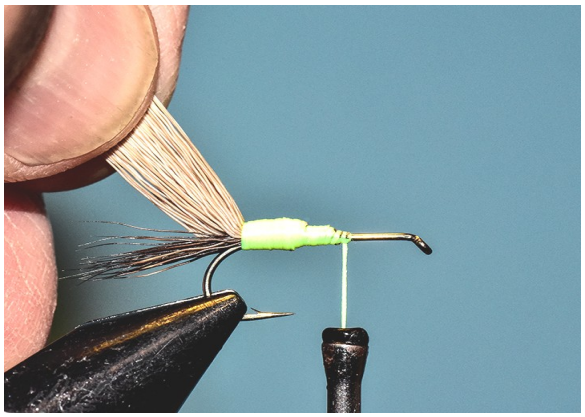


STEP 5 - Move the hair bundle back on the hook so it lines up with the thread left handing in the middle of the body area in STEP 2. Anchor the hair bundle in place with 3 or 4 tight thread wraps.

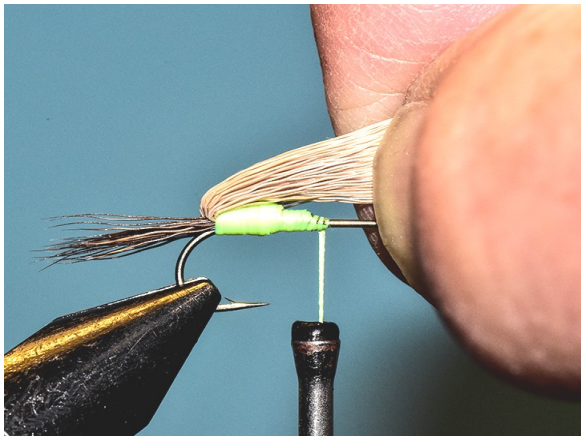


STEP 6 - Wrap back over the hair bundle using snug-but-not-tight thread wraps. At the end of the shank apply several tight wraps to anchor the bundle in place. The combination of tight thread wraps on both ends of the body area with snug wraps in the middle *captures* the air in the hollow hair fibers to help float the fly.

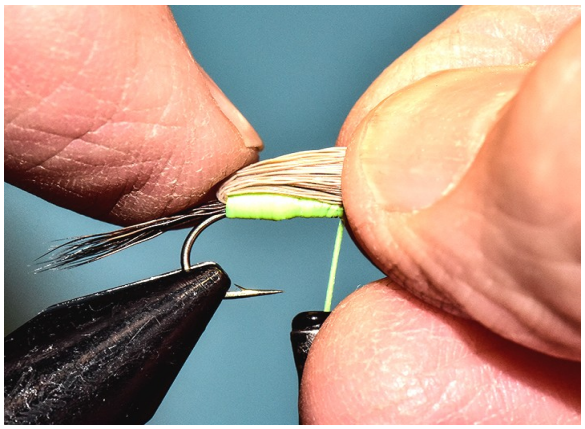




STEP 7 - Now advance the thread forward to the front of the thread base at the point 1/3rd of the shank length back from the hook eye. Be certain to use even, snug wraps to form a smooth body.



STEP 8 - Now pull the elk-hair bundle over the body and prepare to anchor it in place but **hold it in that position**. This is a critical point in the Humpy's construction so we'll share a rule with you. No matter how hard you try, it is impossible to **pull** the bundle of hair tight. Tug on the bundle a few times and see if you can pull those fibers in line and tight. It won't happen. The fix is in the next step!



STEP 9 - The only way we know to get the hair in line and tight is to **push** it into position. Notice that Al has placed his left finger at the back of the hump hair and is pushing forward on it at the junction of that bundle and the tail. Every time he pushes forward on the back of the hump hair, Al slightly relaxes his right hand so the newly tighten hair can slip forward where he again holds it tight. Repeat this process until the hump hair is tight.

STEP 10 - While holding the hair bundle tight and forward, place two turns of thread around it and snug up the wraps (do not tighten them yet).

STEP 11 - Now, pull the tips of the hair bundle up about a 30-degree angle then slightly **relax** the thread wraps.

STEP 12 - Next while maintaining an "angled pull" on the hair tips, gradually tighten the thread wraps. Put a lot of pressure on them but do not break the thread. Add a couple of more turns of tight thread wraps to hold everything in place. **NOTE:** The process in STEP 11 & 12 is to make sure the hump hair does not slip down around the hook and cover up the body color on the body of the fly. The red circle verifies the process was successful.

STEP 13 - Pull the hair tips up and wrap several thread wraps tight in front of the bundle to force them upright. If the fly in the vise is a size #14 or larger now is the time to tie off the floss and switch to 6/0 thread of the same color. Off camera, Al made the switch.

STEP 14 - Divide the hair tips in half, place a couple of crisscross wraps between the two, and wrap several turns around the bottom of each to form a set of hair wings as illustrated

STEP 15 - Select a long saddle hackle or two cape feathers, strip the fuzz from the base of the stem(s), and tie the feather(s) to the hook behind the wings. Wrap the hackle making sure to place about 1/3rd of the wraps behind the wings and 2/3rds in front. Tie off, whip-finish, and trim the thread to complete the fly.

OPTIONAL STEP 10 - One problem with this style of Humpy is the body color strip showing on the underside is narrow. To make a more robust body pull only PART of the hair over and anchor it at the front. Then wrap over it (back & forth) to enlarge the body ending at the front as illustrated. Be sure to pull hair in the center of the bundle so your fly doesn't end up off kilter!

OPTIONAL STEP 11 & 12 - Now, pull the rest of the hair over the more robust body and repeat STEPS 11 & 12 on the previous page. The result will be a much larger body.

OPTIONAL 13 - At this point, you can stand up the hair bundle, divide it into wings, and apply hackle to finish the fly. You'll have to decide if you prefer this style of body or the one illustrated in STEP 15. We prefer the one in STEP 15 and use other methods outlined in future chapters to get a fatter body. We've tilted this fly so you can better see the body.

Chapter 3 —Hunch Back No Hackle

This fly's inspiration came from two totally different directions. Often inspiration is the results of need and this chapter's namesake pattern (pictured above) is an example.

During much of the '80s, Al worked as a commercial fly tier during his downtime from his regular day job as a manager for a local telephone company. During this same time, genetic hackle was not as readily available as it is today. Today's tiers really have it made, all they have to do to purchase the hackle they need is visit their local fly shop or favorite website. In those days getting hackle in the quantities Al needed for his commercial orders meant he had to place his order with the producer far in advance of the product's availability. He couldn't wait for the hackle to tie his flies because then he wouldn't have enough time to deliver the finished flies to the shops needing them. As a result, he spent most of his winters tying fly bodies sans the hackle all the while praying nothing happened to his hackle delivery.

One day inspiration rang its bell and Al decided to mix a Compara-Dun pattern with a Humpy. It looked good to him and to the fish but for some reason, the idea never caught on with the public. Therefore most of you have never seen a Humpy without hackle until now. You'll have to decide if the fly is worth the effort or if a much-easier-to-tie Compara-Dun is a better use of your time.

The second fly we'll present in this chapter was also the result of the early day's hackle

shortage. While attending a Federation of Fly Fisher's Conclave (now named Fly Fisher's International) in West Yellowstone, Montana in the early '80s Al happened to spend time watching a commercial tier named Tom tying flies on a warm, sunny day at a small table, set up on the sidewalk in front of Pat & Sig Barnes Fly Shop. NOTE: Al really wishes he could provide Tom's last name but the passing of time and a poor memory renders that impossible.

Tom's solution to the hackle shortage problem was a little different from Al's. He used the pattern's materials to provide most of the floatation and only used the hackle to kind of dress up the fly a bit. In so doing he only used a few turns of hackle and could stretch his limited supply much further.

The WYS Humpy at the end of this chapter is that pattern. You'll have to decide which to add to your personal fly box. We've tried both and each seems to be equally effective. With the passage of time, hackle availability has improved so today we fish with a standard Humpy a lot more than those in this chapter. That said, you'll find when you reach Chapter 10 the Humpy that actually fills our fly boxes today but we'll let you explore your tying options on your own. In so doing you can decide which of the dozen or more Humpies we present herein will become your go-to version(s).

Materials— Hunch Back No Hackle

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 22
THREAD: Chartreuse (floss or 6/0, color of choice)
TAIL: Moose body hair
BODY: Tying thread (color of choice)
HUMP: Elk body hair
WING: Elk body hair (waste from the hump, fanned)
HACKLE: Elk body hair (fanned in front of the wing)
HEAD: Elk hair bullet head, waste used in the wing

STEP 1 - *Notice we've picked up the pace with this pattern because the first steps are identical to the fly in the previous chapter.* We'll set our hook in the vise and attach our tying thread. Next, we'll add the tail, body, and wing material as described on pages 26 through 29. Also note, we'll be using floss to tie this size #10 but if it were a size #16 or smaller we'd be using 6/0 thread in our color of choice.

STEP 2 - Next we'll wrap a thread dam in front of the wing bundle to push them up. A loop of thread around the bundle also helps hold them in place. End this step by wrapping the thread to the hook eye and leave it there for now.

STEP 3 - Select, clean, and stack a bundle of elk hair. Hold it near the hook to estimate the distance from the tip of the eye to the end of the bend. This is the measurement needed for the next step. Notice the two red arrow indicating that length.

STEP 4 - Tie the bundle of pre-measured hair to the hook directly behind the hook eye. Be sure to leave a gap between the trimmed bundle and the base of the wing. You'll need this space in the next step.

STEP 5 - Use your fingers or a bullet-head tool to push the fibers back to position them for the anchor wraps on the next page.

STEP 6 - Anchor the bullet-head, wing-portion in place with several tight thread wraps. Apply a whip-finish and trim the thread. To complete the fly, fan the wing bundle in an arc across the top as indicated in the red-circle inset.

Chapter 3A —WYS Humpy

As stated earlier in this chapter's introduction, Al got his inspiration for this fly while watching a commercial tier ply his trade at a table on the sidewalk in West Yellowstone in the early '80s. In fact, this pattern was the one that got Al (and eventually the two of us) focused on the hair-wing-road regarding his commercial fly tying.

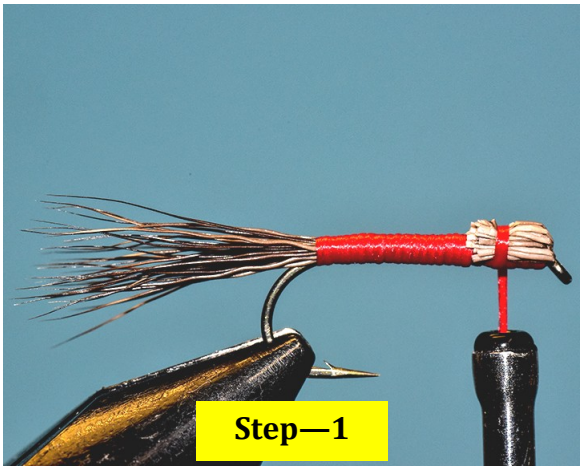
Over the years we've tied just about every commercial pattern at one time or another. Some patterns we enjoyed tying and others not so much. It didn't take us long to learn tying flies we enjoyed made for a much easier day-at-work. In time we weaned out the flies we didn't care to tie until today the only patterns we still tie commercially are hair-wing dry flies. Humpies are a personal favorite of the whole bunch of hair-wing flies.

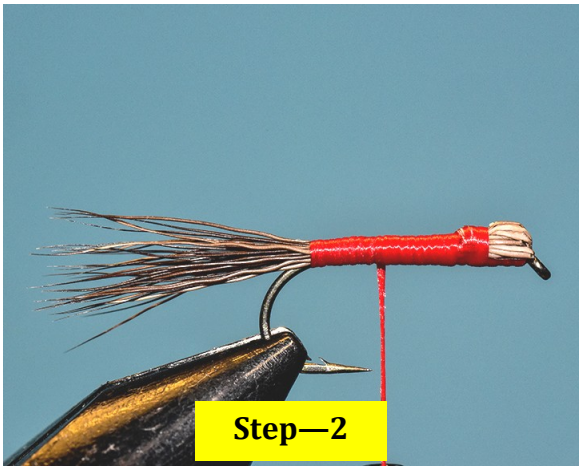
Before we move into the step-by-step portion of the WYS Humpy we want to point out that we used a moose body hair tail & head because it provides contrast between fly parts. The original pattern called for elk body hair for the tail, hump, wings, and head.

Materials— WYS Humpy

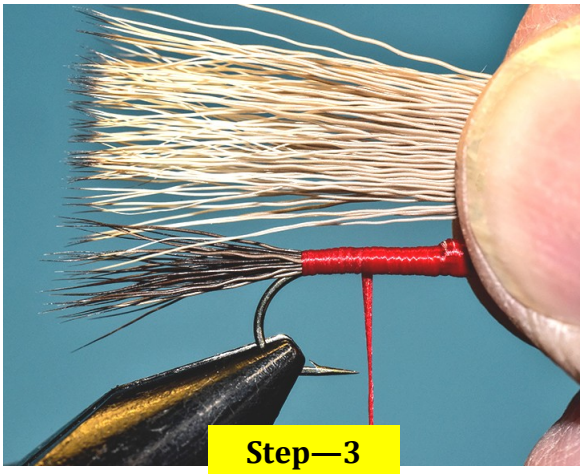
HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 22
THREAD: Red (floss or 6/0, color of choice)
TAIL: Moose body hair
BODY: Tying thread (color of choice)
HUMP: Elk body hair
WING: Elk body hair (waste from the hump, divided)
HACKLE: Grizzly (sparser than for a Standard Humpy)
HEAD: Waste moose body hair from the tail

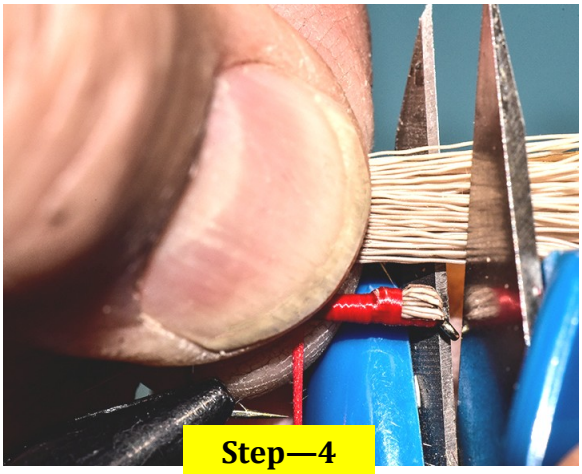
Last item: Tying this fly is similar to the Hunch Back so we'll just let the pictures on the next pages speak for themselves.



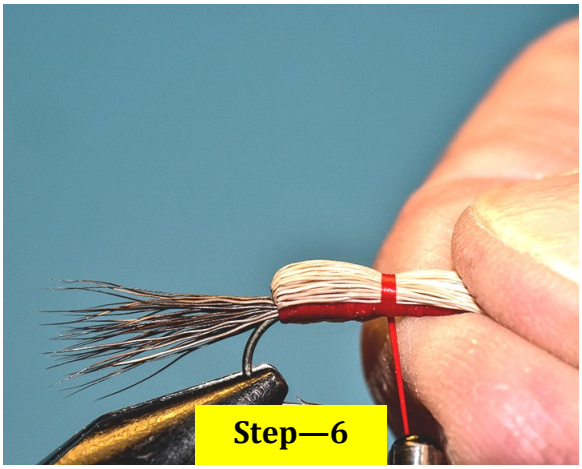


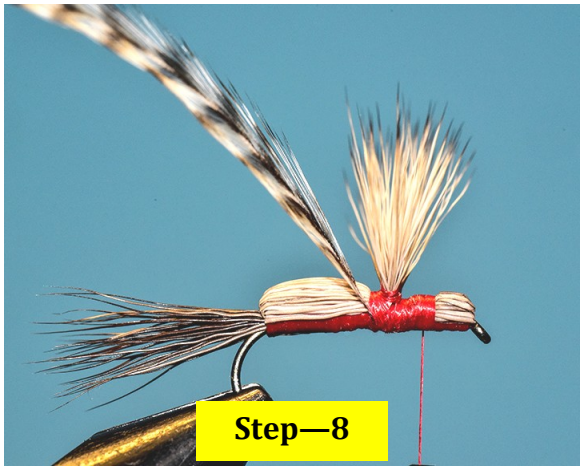
The two steps above illustrate the tail and the head formed from its waste.





In Step—2 we left the thread hanging just in front of the hook point. Then we measured the wing/hump bundle just like we did for the Hunch Back & Standard Humpy.





As you can see, we could easily stop tying this fly at Step—7 and go fishing. The addition of the hackle is more to make the fly tier happy than it is to attract the fish. With or without the hackle, this Humpy version is well worth giving a test drive. You'll be glad you did even if it's not available in your local fly shop.

Completed WYS Humpy

Chapter 4 —Humpy Trude
(with options)

Our adaptation of a Humpy tied as a Trude fly has evolved a lot from the original Trude first tied as a lark by Carter H. Harrison at A. S. Trude's ranch on the Henry's Fork River in 1903. You'll find our version has a calf tail wing while the original had a bundle of red spaniel dog's hair in its place. We did employ one original material from the original when we used a clump of fox squirrel hair fibers for the tail however if you wish moose or elk would be a good substitute. We did take more than a few liberties when we added the elk-hair hump. You'll have to decide if our addition of the hump is an original idea or not. We've long ago learned that as soon as you make a statement about developing a fly, someone will come forward and claim the opposite.

Our only claim with this pattern is many people find adding the Trude-style wing after the hump is easier than tying a standard Humpy. Again, you the reader and tier will have to decide if you agree with our assessment regarding ease-of-tying.

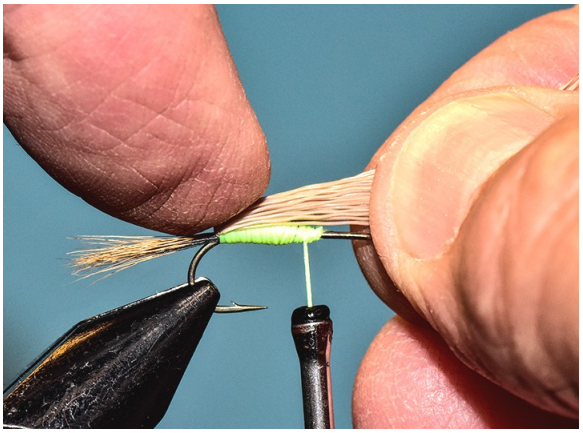
This chapter also has an optional fly and the "take" on this adaptation is ours—we think!?! In any case, during our days as Montana fly-fishing guides, we found a Lime Trude or its cousin the Lime Humpy Trude was an excellent start-the-day-with-clients pattern. Today our favorite stream in Idaho is the Lochsa River and you are only pre-tending to fish if you don't at least try a Lime Trude or its Humpy cousin. Turn the page now and learn how easy this fly is to tie or adapt should you choose to do so.

Materials— Humpy Trude

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 18
THREAD: Chartreuse (floss or 6/0, color of choice)
TAIL: Fox squirrel-tail hair
BODY: Tying thread (color of choice)
HUMP: Elk body hair
WING: Calf tail or body hair (tied Trude style)
HACKLE: Brown, tied full
HEAD: Thread

STEP 1 - We'll start by laying down a thread base that covers the back half of the hook shank. **Note:** Don't let that thread base stray into the front half of the hook. Now select a bundle of squirrel tail fibers and clean out any short fibers. Even the tips in a hair stacker then attach them to the hook as a tail that is equal to the hook shank in length. Be sure the thread is no further forward than the center of the shank.

STEP 2 - Select a bundle of elk body hair, remove the short fibers, trim the base ends even, and tie this bundle to the back of the hook as illustrated. Notice we end up slightly in front of the center of the hook and why in Step 1 we make sure to stay positioned on the back of the hook. We call this "slipping-forward-tendency" "position creep" or "material creep."



STEP 3 - Pull the hair over for the hump. Remember you must PUSH the hump hair tight; you can't pull it to take the slack out of the fibers.

STEP 4 - After removing all of the slack from the hump, bind the hair in place, and trim off the waste ends. Do not cut the hair too close to the tie-down point or the fibers could pull out from under the thread wraps. Leave the thread here for now.

STEP 5 - Select, clean, and stack a bundle of calf-tail hair. Tie it to the hook to form a Trude-style wing long enough to reach the center of the tail. Trim the waste and wrap over it to prepare the hackle-platform, thread-base. Leave the thread hanging at the back of the hackle platform.

STEP 6 - Select and prepare a brown hackle feather. Tie it on the hook and wrap it over the thread base. Whip-finish and trim to complete the fly.

Chapter 4A —Optional Trude?

When you check the picture of the completed fly on the next page you'll think we are pulling your leg. Why? It's because you'll be looking at a finished pattern that looks like a Standard Humpy detailed in Chapter 2.

Yes, it does look like and is, in fact, a Standard Humpy but how we get to the completed fly is by traveling down the Trude road. Are you confused? We hope you won't be for long.

Go to the next page and see how you can end up with a Standard Humpy by changing horses in the middle of the stream so to speak.

Materials— Optional Trude?

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 18
THREAD: Chartreuse (floss or 6/0, color of choice)
TAIL: Fox squirrel-tail hair
BODY: Tying thread (color of choice)
HUMP: Elk body hair
WING: Elk or calf hair (tied Trude style then divided)
HACKLE: Brown, tied full
HEAD: Thread

OPTIONAL METHOD—STEP 1 - We'll start just like we did for the Humpy Trude and repeat steps 1 through 4. At step 4, instead of trimming the hump hair and leaving the thread hanging in that position, we'll wrap over the cut ends and place the thread in the middle of the section in front of the hump as illustrated. See the two red arrows. The one on the left is the stopping point from Step 4 on the Trude fly and the right arrow is the stopping point for this step.

OPTIONAL METHOD—STEP 2 - Instead of using calf-tail hair we'll switch to elk hair for the wing bundle. Select, clean, and stack a bundle of elk hair and tie it to the hook as the Trude style wing. The wing should be slightly shorter than it was in the previous fly.

OPTIONAL METHOD—STEP 3 - Trim off the waste elk hair. Wrap over the cut hair fibers to form a hackle base in front of the wing bundle. Leave the thread hanging at the front of the hook. Notice the space behind the wing bundle that Al is pointing with his bodkin and the two red arrows. We'll soon need it in a future step so **don't wrap over it.**

OPTIONAL METHOD—STEP 4 - Pull the thread back through the wing bundle to divide it into two bunches as illustrated.

OPTIONAL METHOD—STEP 5 - Apply several "gather wraps" around each wing to finish dividing the two.

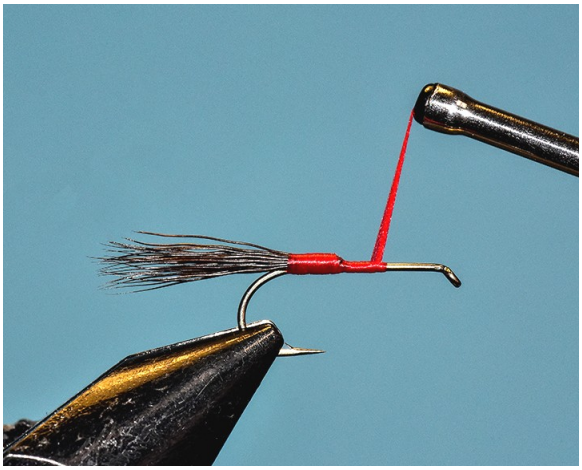
OPTIONAL METHOD—STEP 6 - Select and prepare a brown hackle feather. Wrap it in front and behind the wings. Tie it off and trim the thread to complete the fly. As you can see in the picture below, we've just illustrated another way to tie a fly that looks like a Standard Humpy. You'll have to decide if you prefer this method or the one illustrated in Chapter 2. Also, we think the wings on our illustrated fly are a bit too long. If you think they are as well, you can easily adjust the length back on Step 2.

Chapter 5 —Royal Humpy

The Royal Humpy, like its brother the “Standard Humpy," is a fly particularly attractive to fish. Tying it, however, requires techniques very different from the regular Humpy. This fly illustrates the use of moose hair for the tail, elk hair for the hump, and calf hair for the wings. Bringing all three materials together and not over dressing the fly is the lesson we’ll offer in this chapter. In the process, we use each material (hair) to do more than one job. A wing can be a wing and something else! Read on to learn what we mean.

Materials— Royal Humpy

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 18
THREAD: Red (floss or 6/0)
TAIL: Moose-body hair
BODY: Tying thread
HUMP: Elk body hair
WING: Calf tail or body hair
HACKLE: Brown, tied full
HEAD: Thread

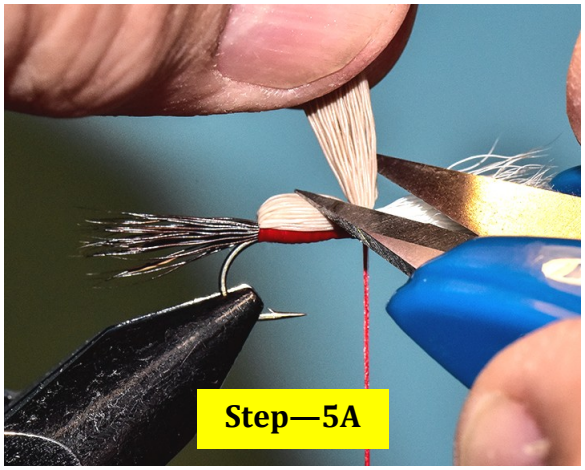


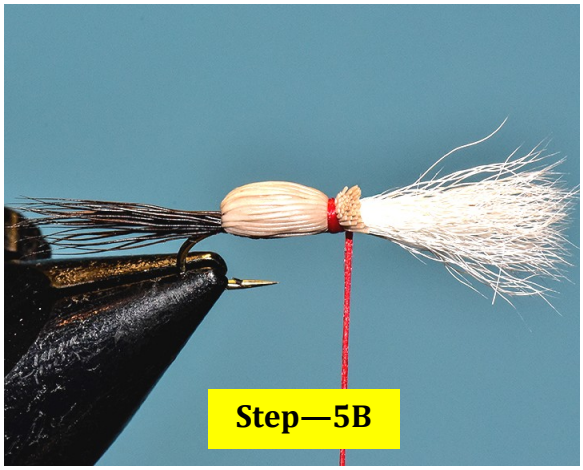
STEP 1 - Start the base wrap at the one-third point of the hook shank. Wrap to the end of the shank and one-half way back. Select, clean and stack a clump of moose hair for the tail. Apply the tail, trim the excess fibers, and advance the thread to the one-third point.

STEP 2 - This is one of the steps where the material does more than one function. Besides forming the wings, the calf hair will form a portion of the hump as well. Select, clean, and stack a clump of calf hair. We start by tying the hair at the one-third point with several tight wraps. **Do not trim the fibers** but instead continue wrapping over them toward the end of the shank. Just before reaching the end of the shank stop and trim the excess fibers as illustrated. Cover wrap the trimmed ends. You will note that the underbody has a big lump in it. That's ok, we'll deal with it next. Leave the thread hanging in the middle of the hook so it is ready for the next step.

STEP 3 - You will recall the quantity of hair for calf wings is a clump 1.5 times the diameter of the eye of the hook using the twist over method. Because we have already formed part of the hump with the calf hair in **Step 2** we need a clump of elk hair about **half the size** we used in the **previous fly**, the Humpy Trude. Clip that quantity of hair from the elk hide, remove the underfur but do not stack the hair. Tie the base ends of the hair on the hook shank starting in the middle and wrapping to the end of the shank. Cover wrap back over the whole body area ending about two thread turns **before** reaching the back of the wings as illustrated.

STEP 4 - Pull the clump of elk hair forward with the right hand. Just like in the last fly, the hair fibers are tightened using the index finger of the left hand **pressed against the fibers near the tail.** Hold the fibers forward with the right hand and take two snug but not tight wraps behind the wings. Next take two more turns and pull them a little tighter than the first two. Take two more turns and pull them very tight. The graduated tightening of the thread wraps avoids cutting the elk hair with the thread.





STEP 5 - Pull the excess elk-hair fibers straight up. Keeping the scissors blades flat along the shank, trim the excess fibers (**Step 5A**) using the scissors from the near side of the hook. You will note this step leaves a horseshoe shaped cut in the trimmed elk hair (**Step 5B**).

STEP 6 - Stand the calf-hair wings up by wrapping a thread dam directly in front. The calf fibers fall in place in the middle of the small horseshoe shaped elk hair. Post the wings and you will see the tip ends of the elk-hair horseshoe become part of the base of each wing post. This step actually ties the elk-hair hump into the calf-hair wings. Place a drop of glue behind the wings to further cement that junction.

STEP 7 - Prepare and tie on two brown hackle feathers. Wrap each, trim the excess and whip-finish to complete the fly.

For many fly tiers the improved visibility provided by the calf-hair wings is worth the extra effort required to tie the fly. The recommended sizes are from number-eight to number-eighteen and the colors are the same as a regular Humpy. Just let your imagination go.

We keep the regular Humpies and the Royal Humpies in the same compartment in the fly box -- red with red, yellow with yellow, etc. If a particular color Humpy is catching fish and the light conditions deteriorate we cut the regular Humpy off the leader and tie on a Royal Humpy of the corresponding color. The fish do not seem to notice the difference but the angler certainly can see the fly on the water much better.

Some low-light conditions are when this fly really shines. It's not uncommon to be in a situation where the angler is really struggling to see the fly and cannot quite see well enough to identify a fish grabbing their offering. We often encounter this situation late in the day when guiding clients on a float trip. The client standing in the knee locks will have trouble seeing the fly. On the other hand, the guide who is much lower in the boat and at a different angle to the sun sees the fly very well. Rather than trying to advise the client when to strike it's much easier to switch to a Royal Humpy. Those two little-beacon wings make identifying a fishes' take so much easier and saves a lot of frustration for all parties concerned.

A fishing tip: The wings don’t always have to be white. An assortment of Royal Humpy style of flies with dyed calf-tail wings can be a great addition to any anglers fly box. The varied colors can really assist the angler in tracking the pattern on the water’s surface in a multitude of light conditions.

Chapter 6 —Wing-Waste Humpy

This fly and the one in the next chapter are the results of a "business opportunity" we bumped into on a lovely spring day many years ago. At the time we lived in Bozeman, Montana where we had started our fledgling business, BT's Fly Fishing Products. During the start-up years we tried a number of ventures while searching for the product line that would best fit with our existing commercial-fly-tying-and-guide business.

On the day in question, we opened an email from a long-time friend who operated a couple of fly-tying factories in Malaysia. His brief message detailed the process he was using to combine the two thus liquidating one factory's inventory. He had already sold many of the flies and all of the hard assets like office equipment, tables, chairs, etc. What remained he referred to as "decent garbage." He wanted to know if we would be interested in the last of the decent garbage on a by-the-kilogram basis. We settled on a price per "kilo" and sat back to see just what our crazy purchase would bring us.

Several weeks later a DHL truck delivered a fairly large box that weighed about 50 pounds (more or less). We opened it with more than a bit of trepidation. Inside we found floor sweepings which included dirt, tags of thread, bare hooks, and partly tied flies. That was the disappointing 10 percent. The other 90 percent was an assortment of about 5000 dozen flies. It was an incredible value but needed some work.

The flies were loose, mixed in with the 10 percent trash. We needed to separate the wheat from the chaff so to speak and the sorting job took us a couple of years under-

standing we only worked on the project in our spare time and when members of the family "just had to see" our outlandish purchase. On more than a couple of occasions, Gretchen's father (a former commercial tier) and her mother traveled to visit which is code for "helping the kids sort flies." Their help was most welcome.

In due course, we did finally sort and package all of the flies. We had everything under the sun because the factory had served not only the USA but also Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

Many of the flies were new to us. For example, we had never before seen a Booby Fly from the UK or a Mrs. Simpson from New Zealand. Much of the fun was identifying new flies and the Internet was a big help along with friends scattered around the world.

The other part of the fun was identifying how some of the flies were tied. For instance, we found the factory tied their Blue Dun flies by wrapping two hackles at once, then tying off the feathers, and leaving the two hackle points standing up as the wings.

When the hackle was carefully measured and wrapped the flies look perfect. We know because we had 328 dozen size #22 Blue Duns to check. After tearing apart about a dozen, we concluded all 300 plus dozen had been tied using the same technique.

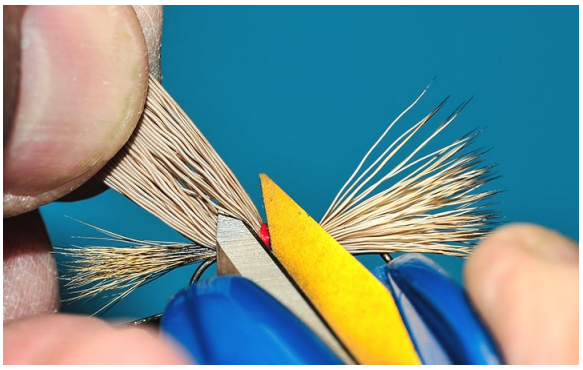
There were many other pattern examples like the Blue Dun but two Humpies really got our attention. It was obvious they looked like a Humpy but had been tied different than those we tied as part of our day-to-day business. So what would you do? We don't know about you but we took several of them apart to find out how they had been tied.

We were amazed to see just how they had gone together. Understand, we had been tying Humpies professionally for a number of years and only knew of three or four ways to tie them. This chapter and the next will introduce all of you to what new tricks we learned from those Malaysian Humpies.

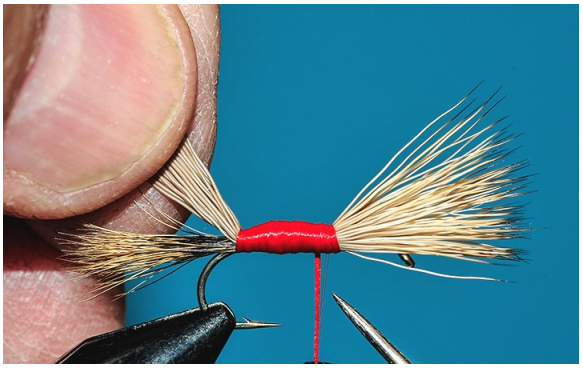
Materials— Wing-Waste Humpy

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 18
THREAD: Red (floss or 6/0)
TAIL: Squirrel, moose, elk, or choice
BODY: Tying thread
HUMP: Waste from the wing
WING: Elk-body hair
HACKLE: Brown, tied full
HEAD: Thread

STEP 1 - Select, clean, and stack a clump of squirrel-tail hair. Lay down a thread base that covers the back 2/3 of the hook shank. Wrap the thread forward to the center of the hook and tie on the stacked squirrel to form a tail equal to the shank in length. Trim the waste and advance the thread forward to a position 1/3 of the shank length back from the hook eye as illustrated. Moose, deer, or elk are also good materials for the tail.



STEP 2 - Select, clean, and stack a bundle of elk-body hair. Tie it to the hook to form the wings. Bind the waste elk hair back over the tail material ALMOST to the back of the hook. Trim off about 1/3 of the bundle of elk hair. Be sure to clip the hair from the TOP of the bundle (illustrated) rather than the sides or bottom.



STEP 3 - Wrap over the trimmed hair traveling to the end of the hook shank. Wrap back forward ALMOST to the base of the wings. Stop a couple of thread turns short as illustrated.

STEP 4 - Pull the bundle over then tighten the fibers by pushing on them at the back of the hump.

STEP 5 - Tie the hump off behind the wing bundle and trim off the waste as illustrated in Step5A and Step 5B on page 44. Stand up and divide the wings just like those illustrated here or in the previous chapter.

STEP 6 - Select and prepare a couple of brown hackle feathers. Apply them to the hook to form a full dry-fly application. Whip-finish and trim the thread to complete the fly.

Note: Many fly tiers prefer the improved visibility provided by calf-hair wings but alas using that material for this pattern style is just not possible. BUT, you can turn to the next page and the Tail-Waste Humpy could be a good option for adding those calf-hair wings.

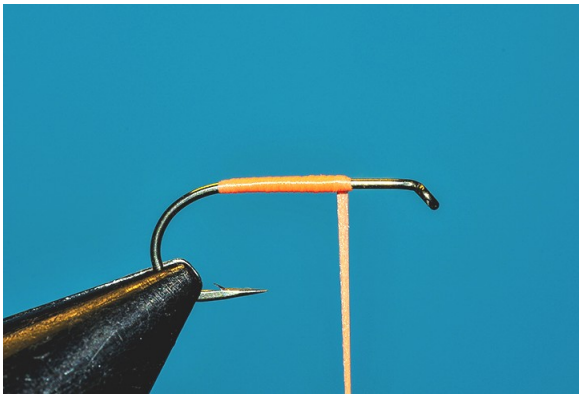
Chapter 7 — Tail-Waste Humpy

This version is similar to the one in the previous chapter except the material source for the pattern's hump is on the other end of the hook. Just like the name implies, it is produced by pulling over the waste from the tail and binding it in place. We have changed our version here somewhat by extending the hump hair forward through the wings to a position in front of them where it is tied off rather than doing so behind. If it sounds confusing, we hope the step-by-step illustrations and text help clear up the muddy waters so to speak.

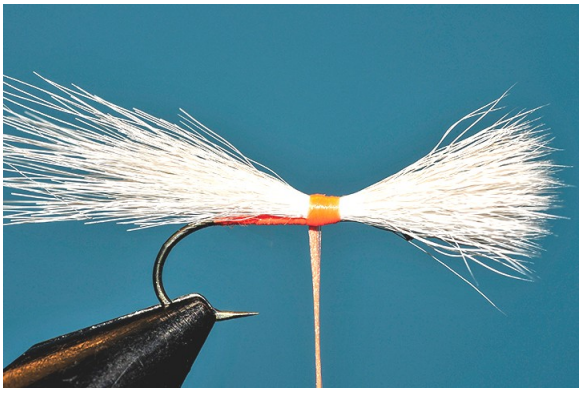
Materials— Tail-Waste Humpy

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 18
THREAD: Orange (floss or 6/0)
TAIL: Moose– or elk-body hair
BODY: Tying thread
HUMP: Waste from the tail
WING: Calf hair (tail or body, choice)
HACKLE: Grizzly, tied full
HEAD: Thread

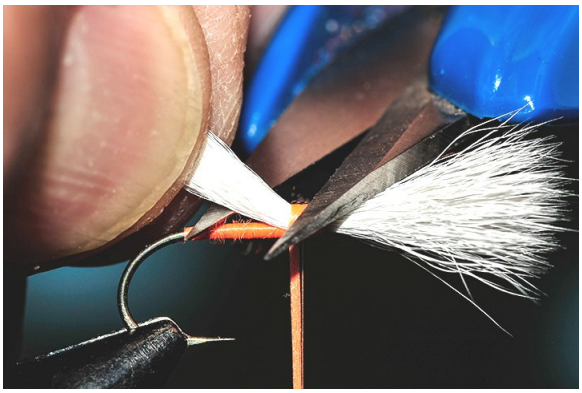
STEP 1 - Set the hook in the vise and apply a thread base starting at a position 1/3 on the shank, wrapping back to the end, then forward to the starting point.



STEP 2 - Select, clean, and stack a clump of calf hair (we're using body hair for this pattern). Tie this bundle of hair on the shank with the tips forward. The length of the clump should be equal to the hook shank. Bind it in place with 8 or 10 tight thread wraps as illustrated.



STEP 3 - Pull the bundle up at a 45-degree angle and trim it from the off-side of the hook. Cutting the hair in this manner produces a steeply-angled trim point.



STEP 4 - Select, clean, and stack a clump of moose (or elk) hair. Tie this clump of hair to the hook to form a tail equal to the hook shank in length. Pull the waste hair back over the tail and bind it in place. Leave the thread hanging about 2-thread turns behind the wing bundle.

STEP 5 - Wrap several turns of thread in front of the wing bundle then crisscross wrap through the middle to separate it in half. Wrap around the base of each half to produce a divided set of calf-hair wings.

STEP 6 - Pull the waste hair from the tail over using a finger to press the fibers tight forming the hump as illustrated.

STEP 7 - Anchor the hump both behind and in front of the wings. Trim the waste at a severe angle as illustrated. **Hint:** If interested it would be very easy to bind the tail waste into a head similar to the WYS Humpy on page 35. Hackle could be an optional material.

STEP 8 - Wrap over the trimmed ends in front of the wings to produce the hackle platform. Prepare the feathers and apply a full grizzly dry-fly application. Whip-finish and trim the thread to complete the fly.

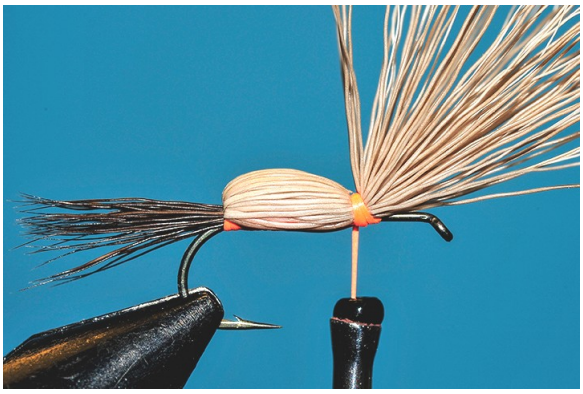
Chapter 8 — Parachute Humpy

This chapter is the transition point in the book where we change from flies tied with hair to those with a combination of hair and synthetic materials. For example, the parachute post on this fly COULD easily have been constructed from hair or synthetic fibers; the choice is yours. We are presenting it here with one method of blending **both hair** and **synthetic** in the post but there are a number of other techniques that could work just as well; again, the choice is all yours.

Another problem a Parachute Humpy brings to the table is the need to cover the standard-hackle platform with material to camouflage the area that is no longer covered with feather fibers. We've elected to use peacock but there are many other options

Materials— Parachute Humpy

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 22
THREAD: Orange (floss or 6/0)
TAIL: Moose-body hair
BODY: Tying thread
HUMP: Elk hair
WING: Mix of elk hair and bright synthetic
THORAX: Peacock herl, wrapped
HACKLE: Grizzly, tied full
HEAD: Thread



STEP 1 - The first part of this fly goes together exactly like the Humpy Trude on pages 38 & 39 with one minor change. We'll start by laying down a thread base that covers the back half of the hook shank. Select, clean, and stack a clump of moose hair then tie it to the hook as a tail that is equal to the hook shank in length. Select a bundle of elk body hair, remove the short fibers, trim the base ends even, and tie this bundle to the center of the hook shank. Pull & PUSH the hair over for the hump. Bind it in place but DO NOT trim the waste.

STEP 2 - Pull the waste up straight and wrap around bundle's base to form a parachute platform. Trim of the waste fibers even with the top of the platform. Select a strand of brightly-colored yarn. Sandwich the hair post in the center of the strand. In the illustration, Al has pulled the near side forward to better see the process. We like to anchor the strand in place with a crisscross wrap.

STEP 3 - Wrap around the strand AND the post to finish the hackle platform. Trim the wing so it equals the hook shank in length.

STEP 4 - Select and prepare a grizzly hackle feather. Tie it on the hook in front of the post then bind the stem to the post itself. Attach several peacock fibers by their tips directly behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread back on the hook so it is positioned behind the post. Trim any waste material as needed.

STEP 5 - Wrap the peacock herls back on the shank to meet the thread waiting behind the post. Tie off the herls and trim off the waste. Be sure the thread is hanging directly behind the parachute post.

STEP 6 - Wind the hackle down the post making each subsequent turn closer to the hook shank. Upon reaching the shank, tie the feather off to the BASE of the POST. Do not tie the feather off to the hook shank. Trim the waste feather and also make certain the thread is hanging directly in front of the post.

STEP 7 - Pull the thread forward to the hook eye and anchor it there with a half hitch. In the illustration, we are using a half-hitch tool to complete that part of the process.

STEP 8 - We can use the same tool to apply a whip-finish by placing more than one turn around the tool like Al has in the picture. Apply a couple of two-turn whip-finishes and trim the thread to complete the fly. **Tying Tip:** We use this method to complete ALL of our parachute patterns to avoid struggling to get our tippet material through a clogged hook eye when on-the-water.

Chapter 9 — Half & Half Humpy

This pattern was born as part of a hair-wing, fly-tying class we taught when we lived in Colorado and worked for the hackle producer, Whiting Farms. In the class a number of students were struggling with hair-wing proportions on the Royal Wulff section on which we were working. Also, we were going to miss the next two classes because we'd be "on-the-road" for Whiting Farms. We challenged the students to tie 20 dozen Royal Wulff bodies (wings & tails only) —5 dozen from size #12 to #18. In the weeks we were gone 3 of the students completed the assignment and brought their 20 dozen unfinished fly bodies to class while the rest of the class had a few bodies to show for their 3-weeks work.

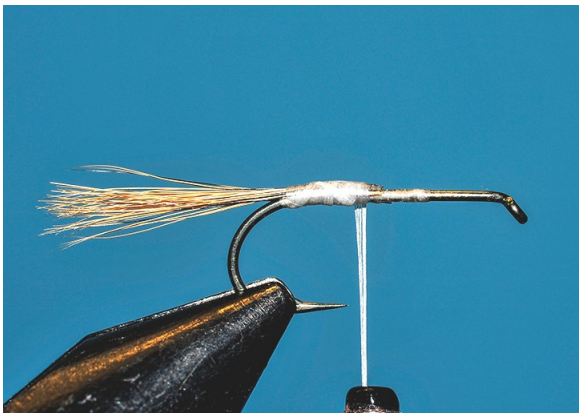
At the next class, we discussed just how we could "dress" the naked bodies to make an assortment of finished fishing flies. A Humpy was one of the ideas brought to the fore. Other ideas were discussed and implemented. They included every color of Wulff, Humpy, Water Walker (parachute hackle around each wing), Drake, etc. we could imagine and the list goes on. We've used the make-the-body-ahead concept ever since.

Today, we're changing the process a little by using the waste from the wing to form part of the hump like we did with the Royal Humpy on page 42. Please notice, we are also introducing the use of white thread to tie the first part of the fly. In so doing, when we crisscross and divide the white calf tail wings, it's almost impossible to determine just how the wings were prepared. It's kind of magic if you will. Whenever we use the make-the-body-ahead concept, we always use white thread around the calf wings.

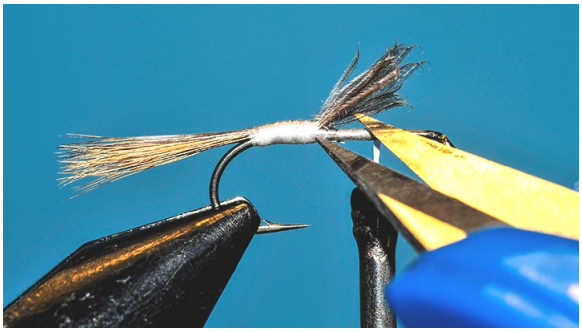
Materials— Half & Half Humpy-Adams

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 8 to 22
THREAD: Gray & white (floss or 6/0)
TAIL: Squirrel-tail hair & grizzly hackle fibers
BODY: Tying thread
HUMP: Gray poly yarn
WING: Calf hair, divided
HACKLE: Grizzly/brown mix, tied full
HEAD: Thread

STEP 1 - After setting the hook in the vise, apply a thread base that starts at the 1/3 shank position (back from the eye), goes to the end, and back forward half way stopping near the center of the hook. Select, clean, and stack a bundle of fox squirrel-tail hair. Attach it to the hook to form the first part of the shank-length tail. Trim, then position the thread in the hook's center.



STEP 2 - Strip a bundle of grizzly hackle fibers from the stem and tie them on top of the squirrel. Trim the waste grizzly fibers then advance the thread forward to the 1/3 shank position.



STEP 3 - Select, clean, and stack a bundle of calf hair (body or tail is fine). Tie it on the hook with the tips pointing forward. Adjust the length to equal the hook shank. Bind the base ends to the hook wrapping up and over the waste from the tail. Just before reaching the end of the shank, cut off the excess. The resulting "bump" is used to form part of the hump in the next step. Whip-finish the white thread, attach gray thread and apply it over the back half of the fly's body area leaving it at the hook's center.

STEP 4 - Select a piece of polypropylene yarn and tie it on the hook to form the hump as illustrated. The poly yarn we use comes in a single strand configuration. We use three or four strands on size #8-10, 3 strands on size #12-14, 1 strand on size #16, and a part of a strand on size #18-22. We used 3 strands on the illustrated size #10. **Material source:** We use Phentex Slipper & Craft Yarn. It's available on eBay or Amazon. Be sure to get the "Slipper & Craft" polypropylene, not one of the other yarns produced by Phentex.

STEP 5 - Pull the piece of yarn over the body and remember to push it at the back to tighten the fibers. In this regard, it acts just like a hair hump on a fly. Tie if off about 2-thread turns behind the wings bundle and trim away the excess just as if you were tying off a hump of hair like the one illustrated in 5A & 5B on page 44.

STEP 6 - Wrap several turns of gray thread over the trimmed poly-yarn ends then whip-finish the gray thread and re-attach the white. Use the white to criss-cross through the bundle calf hair to divide and stand them up straight. Wrap several turns of white thread around the base of each wing post then whip-finish it and cut if from the hook. Tie the gray thread back on the hook behind the wings. **Tying option:** Back on Step3 you could have stood the wings up and divided them rather than waiting to do so in this step. It turns out the same either way but we find working on the hump when the calf hair is laying down (out of the way) easier than when it is standing up like wings. If you do it the way we suggest, you'll be switching thread back-and-forth. You'll have to decide which works best for you.

STEP 7 - Select a grizzly and a brown hackle feather. Strip the fuzzy fibers from the base of each stem then tying them on the hook behind the wings. Advance the tying thread forward almost all the way to the hook eye. Leaving a little space behind the eye makes it easier to tie the two feathers off without crowding the eye.

STEP 8 - Wrap the brown hackle first. Tie it off a short distance behind the eye leaving enough room for the grizzly hackle to follow.

STEP 9 - Wind the grizzly hackle forward making sure there is at least one turn of this color BETWEEN the first turn of brown and the fly body. Wiggle-wind the feather forward working it through the turns of brown. Make sure to place at least one turn of grizzly in front of the last turn of brown hackle. **Tying note:** The reason for placing more turns of grizzly than brown hackle is the darker brown color will "overpower" the lighter grizzly making it difficult to see in the final application. In order to get an evenly appearing distribution of grizzly-brown hackle, we've found a mix of 60-percent grizzly to 40-percent brown produces an application that looks equal even though it's not.

STEP 10 - Tie off and trim as needed then wrap a thread head. Whip-finish and trim the thread to complete the fly.

This pattern style is our second favorite Humpy. Go to the next chapter to learn how to tie our favorite Humpy.

Chapter 10 — Poly Humpy

We have friends who are darned good fly tiers that have a real love/hate relationship with the Humpy. It is really a great pattern for a variety of angling scenarios but many fly dressers do not hold the same enthusiasm for tying it as they do for fishing it. We think the Humpy is probably one of the top, dozen dry flies used on our western rivers for trout and many steelhead fly fishers have found it a useful addition to their arsenal as well when tied on the proper hook.

It's such a versatile pattern because it can be used to represent so many different insects by just changing the size and color. A large orange Humpy is a great imitation for an October Caddis, a small olive version represents a Blue Winged Olive, and changing the body to black turns it into a beetle or ant. Tie it on a salmon style hook and we have a good dry fly to entice a steelhead willing to take a well presented, high-riding pattern.

Our purpose today is not to try to convince you of the pattern's merits rather we want to share with you a technique that makes tying this style of Humpy very easy. You'll find using poly yarn in place of hair changes tying this pattern from difficult to easy. When it is used to replace the standard hair in the wings & hump you end up with a more durable fly that is impervious to water. It never becomes waterlogged like its cousin the standard hair Humpy can. One back cast dries it out because the poly yarn won't soak up water but is light enough to provide good floatation. In fact, it's so light that we also use it to make strike indicators, something we've had to use more often in recent years as advancing age dims our eyesight.

Do we use this fly ourselves? You bet! We've not used a standard hair-wing Humpy for a number of years even though we tied thousands of them as part of our business during the same timeframe. If you open our personal fly-storage bag (which is four, 18 compartment boxes in a duffle bag) you'd find no less than twenty dozen assorted Poly Humpies therein. It was one of Al's "go to flies" for clients during the years he was a Montana guide and it retains that status today for our personal fishing. Also, you'll find this style so easy to tie that even a beginner can enjoy success within the first few tries.

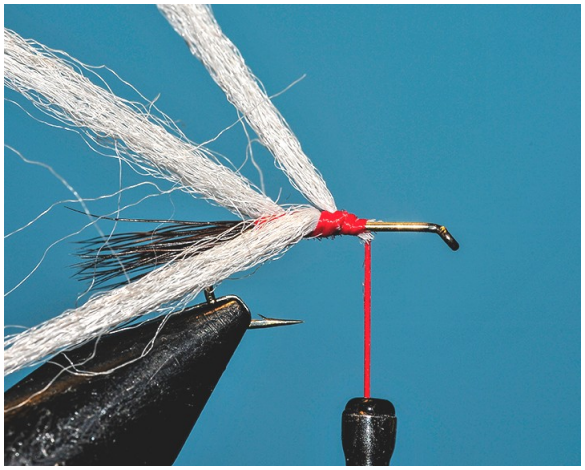
The above "fly box" is what we carry as kind of a personal fly-shop-to-go but we also carry several boxes in our fly vests. We usually have between 4 & 6 standard fly boxes therein. We each have another 4-dozen assorted Poly Humpies or its cousin the Poly Royal Humpy presented in the next chapter.

Before we start tying with polypropylene yarn in earnest we need to discuss one of its properties; it is a very dense yet light-weight material. That means it floats well but we'll have to compensate for its density by changing how we tie multiple strands on the hook. It's quite easy so we'll just explain as we assemble the steps in which we use the material in the next chapters. You may have struggled with the poly material in the hump of the Half & Half in the previous chapter. The next page has the answer so pay attention to how we tie the material on the hook. I might be important to you.

Poly Humpy Materials

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 2 to 22
THREAD: Red single strand floss & thread
TAIL: Moose hair, stacked
HUMP & BODY: Gray poly yarn, red floss
WINGS: Gray poly yarn
HACKLE: Brown, tied full
HEAD: Thread
STRANDS: #8-10 = 3, #12-14 = 2, #16 = 1, #18-22 = .5

STEP 1 - After setting the hook in the vise, apply a thread base that starts in the center of the hook, travels to the end of the shank, and back to within a couple of thread turns of the starting place. Select, clean, and stack a bundle of moose hair. Tie it on the hook to form a tail equal to the shank in length. Trim off the waste hair then wrap forward on the shank ALMOST to the 1/3 position. Stop a couple of thread turns before reaching that point.



STEP 2 - Select 3 strands of gray poly yarn for the size #10 hook we have in the vise. Note we have the formulas for the different hook sizes in the **Materials** list on the previous page. Tie one strand on the hook near the 1/3 position. Wrap back on the hook to the point where the tail waste was trimmed and tie on another strand. Wrap back on the hook a couple more thread turns and tie on the third strand. In the illustration, Al is holding the three pieces of yarn away from the shank to show the staggered tie-in locations. This process produces a smoother body than tying all three strands to the hook in one location.

STEP 3 - Wrap over the strands of poly yarn to the end of the shank then back forward to the 1/3 position on the hook. Pull the strands over and forward. Remember, you can not pull the fibers tight, you must PUSH the slack out of them as illustrated

STEP 4 - Bind the strands to the hook shank. Separate the 3 IF YOU ARE TYING A SIZE #8 or #10 then stand them up by wrapping a thread dam tight in front of them. Pull the two side pieces away from the one in the center then trim off that middle strand. If you are tying one of the smaller sizes then there is no need to trim the poly yarn.

STEP 5 - Crisscross between the strands then wrap around the base of each wing post using several turns of thread. Now it's time to trim the wings to length and this is IMPORTANT so pay close attention. When poly yarn is under tension like pulling it up to cut the wings it stretches about 15 percent (give or take). When cutting the wings, pull up on the poly then relax the pressure on the material BEFORE making your cut. If you don't do this, your wings with be too short—about 15 percent to be exact.

STEP 6 - Select one or two brown hackle feathers, strip the fuzz from the stems, and tie them on the hook behind the wings. Wrap a full dry-fly hackle application then tie off and trim as needed. Whip-finish and trim the thread to complete the fly.

Chapter 11 — Poly Royal Humpy

We have used the Poly Humpy and this fly almost exclusive as our on-the-water choice as the point fly on a dry and dropper set up. We use them for this purpose because they do not become waterlogged which is perfect for the on-the-surface, indicator fly option; they just don't sink.

We usually tie this fly exactly like its cousin the Royal Humpy in Chapter 5 on page 43 but using poly yarn for the wings and the hump rather than hair. Today, just for fun, we are changing that in this chapter. Why? We want to show you how the ideas we present in this book are meant as a starting place in the fly tying process, not as a hard-and-fast rule we expect you to follow.

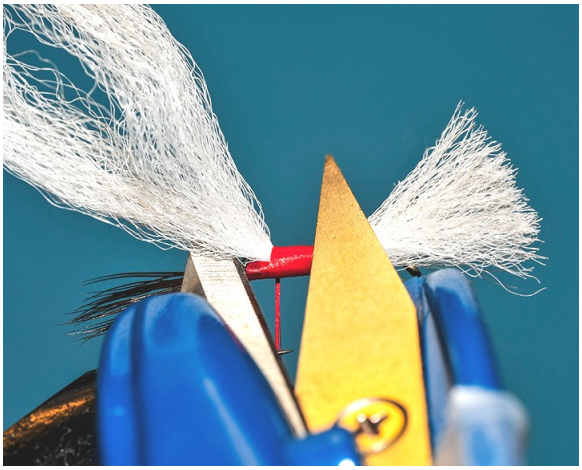
So, what are we doing different? We're going to replace the gray poly yarn on the hump with a strip of gray closed-cell foam. The foam is available in pre-sized sheets at Walmart should you decide to use it. If you prefer using poly yarn, you may follow the instructions for the Half & Half Humpy in Chapter 9 starting on page 56.

Poly Royal Humpy Materials

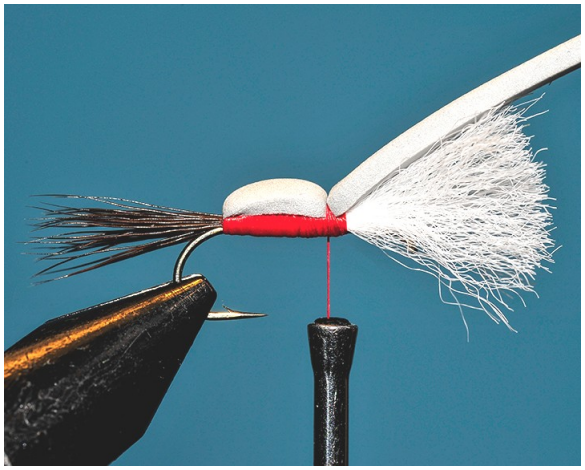
HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 2 to 218
THREAD: Red single strand floss & thread
TAIL: Moose hair, stacked
HUMP & BODY: Gray 2 millimeter foam strip, red floss
WINGS: White poly yarn, 2 strands on size #8-14, 1 thereafter
HACKLE: Blue dun or color of choice, tied full
HEAD: Thread

STEP 1 - After setting the hook in the vise, apply a thread base that starts in the center of the hook, travels to the end of the shank, and back to within a couple of thread turns of the starting place. Select, clean, and stack a bundle of moose hair. Tie it on the hook to form a tail equal to the shank in length. Trim off the waste hair then wrap forward on the shank to the 1/3 position.

STEP 2 - Select 2strands of white poly yarn for the wings on the size #10 hook we have in the vise. If you are tying a size #14 or smaller, one strand is usually enough to do the job. Bind the material to the hook (tips forward) then continue wrapping back on the hook (up and over the tail material) almost to the end of the shank. Stop several threads turns short of the shank end and trim the waste poly as illustrated.



STEP 3 - Wrap over the strands of poly yarn to the end of the shank then back forward to the center of the hook. Cut a strip of gray 2-millimeter closed-cell foam so it is as wide as the gape on a hook one size SMALLER than the one in the vise. Tie it on in the center of the hook, bind over it to the end of the shank, and then forward ALMOST all the way to the 1/3 position as illustrated.



STEP 4 - Pull the foam strip TIGHT over the body then bind it in place near the 1/3 point on the shank. The foam must be pulled tight to get it to conform to the fly's body. Anchor the foam in place with several very tight thread wraps. Notice the word thread, we switched to red 6/0 before pulling the foam over. It bites into and holds the foam better than its wider cousin, floss. When first tying with foam strips, some tiers have trouble with the stretched foam strip staying in place. We've found a **small drop** of Crazy Glue to help until you learn just how tight the foam must be anchored.

STEP 5 - Trim the waste foam then wrap over the trimmed ends. Pull the bundle of white poly yarn up and wrap a thread dam in front to help stand it up. Criss-cross between then wrap each division to form wings that are as long as the hook shank. Trim them to the correct length. Did you notice we temporarily switched to white thread to "divide" the wings? Yes, we sure did while you were not looking!

STEP 6 - Select, prepare, and tie a couple of blue dun hackle feathers. Wrap them to form a full, dry-fly application. We used blue dun just for fun but any color would work fine. The same goes for the body color as well. Whip-finish and trim the thread to complete the fly.

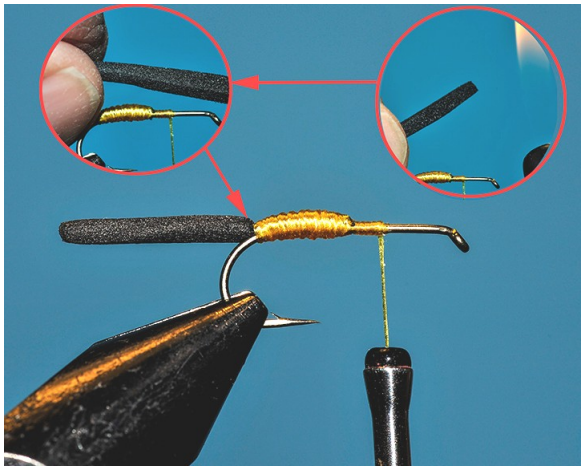
Chapter 12 — All Foam Humpy

We start really mixing things up with this chapter and the next. Our purpose here is not to tell you this pattern is the best fish-catching-bug you can tie. We want to offer ideas on being creative with your fly tying. You'll have to decide on-the-water if the All Foam Humpy is attractive to the fish or not. We know it is but not any more so than the easier-to-tie Poly Humpy already discussed in a previous chapter.

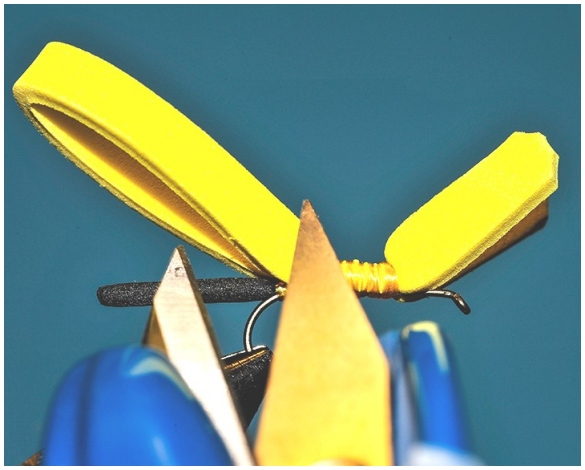
A word of caution when rolling the foam strip to make the pattern's tail. Only warm the foam with the cigarette lighter flame. If you get it too hot, you'll be dealing with burn blisters on your fingers. It's not fun and yes we learned that lesson from experience. It's quite easy to overdo the tail-heating process. Go for less flame rather than more when preparing it for "rolling."

All Foam Humpy Materials

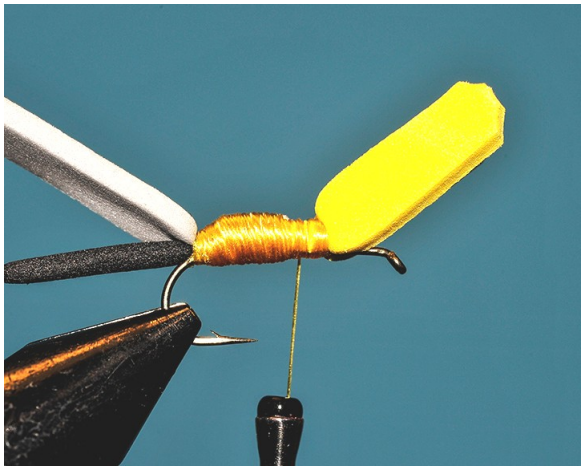
HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 2 to 18
THREAD: Yellow single strand floss & thread
TAIL: Black foam strip, rolled
HUMP & BODY: Gray 2 millimeter foam strip, yellow floss
WINGS: Yellow 2mm foam, cut-wing style
HACKLE: Black or color of choice, tied full
HEAD: Thread



STEP 1 - After setting the hook in the vise, apply a thread base that starts in the center of the hook, travels to the end of the shank, and back to within a couple of thread turns of the starting place. Cut a 3-inch section of black 2mm foam so it is as close to square as you can get it. Quickly pass it through a butane-lighter flame then while the foam is still warm (not hot), roll it between your thumb and forefinger to round the strip. Once again warm one-end-only of the strip and roll it into a point. Tie this to the hook to form a tail equal to the hook shank in length. Trim the waste and advance the thread forward to the 1/3 position on the hook shank.

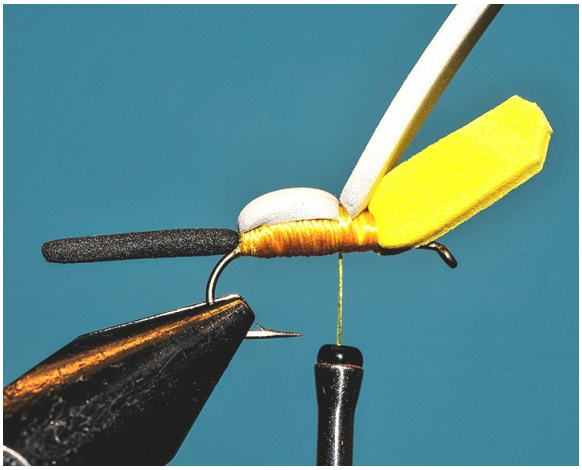


STEP 2 - Cut two 3-inch strips of 2mm foam (yellow or color of choice) so they are as wide as the gape of a hook one size SMALLER than the one in the vise. Even the two strips then round the one end of both with a pair of scissors. Bind the two strips to the hook together (tips forward) then continue wrapping back on the hook (up and over the tail material) almost to the end of the shank. Stop several threads turns short of the shank end and trim the waste foam as illustrated.



STEP 3 - Wrap to the end of the shank then forward to the center of the hook. Cut a strip of gray 2-milLimeter closed-cell foam so it is as wide as the gape on a hook one size SMALLER than the one in the vise. Tie it on in the center of the hook, bind over it to the end of THE shank, and then forward ALMOST all the way to the 1/3 position as illustrated.

STEP 4 - Pull the foam strip TIGHT over the body then bind it in place near the 1/3 point on the shank. The foam must be pulled tight to get it to conform to the fly's body. Anchor the foam in place with several very tight thread wraps. When first tying with foam strips, some tiers have trouble with the stretched foam strip staying in place. We've found a small drop of Crazy Glue to help until you learn just how tightly the foam must be anchored. Do so with caution to avoid gluing your fingers together.



STEP 5 - Trim the waste foam then wrap over the trimmed ends. Pull up the two strips of wing foam and wrap a thread dam in front to help them remain standing Crisscross between then wrap each division to form wings that are as long as the hook shank.

STEP 6 - Select, prepare, and tie a couple of black hackle feathers. Wrap them to form a full, dry-fly application. We used black just for fun but any color would work fine. The same goes for the body color as well. **Tying note:** This is a fun fly to stimulate the thought process but quite frankly it wouldn't be our first choice for a great on-the-water experience, except for the tail. It can easily be used on a wide range of flies. Its circumference can easily be adjusted by repeated heating and rolling between the fingers. If you have problems with a stacked hair tail, this might be an option. Go to the next chapter to learn more.

Chapter 13 — Royal Poly Foam Humpy

We do realize we are getting kind of crazy with these last two patterns but that's OK. We certainly hope the two chapters have kicked your creative process into high gear.

This pattern is identical to the pattern featured in Chapter 11 on Page 64, the Royal Poly Humpy. The only change we made to the Humpy herein is the tail. We made it out of a black, rolled-foam strip. It's made from the 2-milLimeter foam sheet we get in the craft department at Walmart. We thought about naming this fly the Wally Poly Humpy but thought that sounded kind of "hokey" and use the name you see here.

Pay close attention in Step 5 on our treatment of the foam-hump's trim-point. We didn't try to cover it with thread AS we do in all of the other patterns in this book. You'll have to decide if this is an option you'd like to explore. For now, let's tie that last fly.

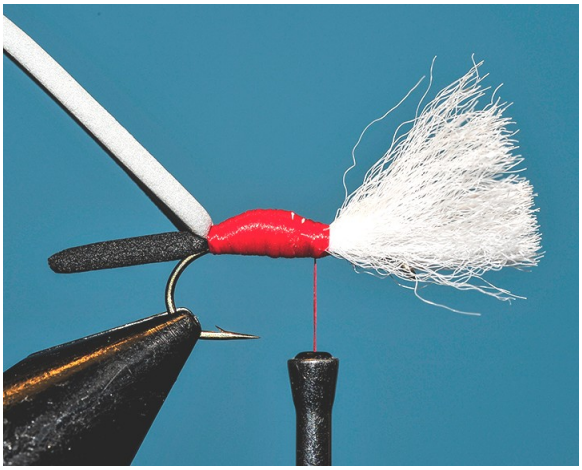
Royal Poly Foam Humpy Materials

HOOK: 1X-long dry-fly hook, size 2 to 18
THREAD: Red single strand floss & thread
TAIL: Black foam strip, rolled
HUMP & BODY: Gray poly yarn, red floss
WINGS: White poly yarn
HACKLE: Brown, tied full
HEAD: Thread

STEP 1 - After setting the hook in the vise, apply a thread base that starts in the center of the hook, travels to the end of the shank, and back to within a couple of thread turns of the starting place. Cut a 3-inch section of black 2mm foam so it is as close to square as you can get it. Quickly pass it through a butane-lighter flame then while the foam is still warm (not hot), roll it between your thumb and forefinger to round the strip. Once again warm one-end-only of the strip and roll it into a point. Tie this to the hook to form a tail equal to the hook shank in length. Trim the waste and advance the thread forward to the 1/3 position on the hook shank.

STEP 2 - Select 2strands of white poly yarn for the wings on the size #10 hook we have in the vise. If you are tying a size #14 or smaller, one strand is usually enough to do the job. Bind the material to the hook (tips forward) then continue wrapping back on the hook (up and over the tail material) almost to the end of the shank. Stop several threads turns short of the shank end and trim the waste poly as illustrated.

STEP 3 - Wrap over the strands of poly yarn to the end of the shank then back forward to the center of the hook. Cut a strip of gray 2-milLimeter closed-cell foam so it is as wide as the gape on a hook one size SMALLER than the one in the vise. Tie it on in the center of the hook, bind over it to the end of THE shank, and then forward ALMOST all the way to the 1/3 position as illustrated.



STEP 4 - Pull the foam strip TIGHT over the body then bind it in place near the 1/3 point on the shank. The foam must be pulled tight to get it to conform to the fly's body. Anchor the foam in place with several very tight thread wraps.

STEP 5 - Trim the waste foam but DO NOT wrap over the trimmed ends. Instead, leave them showing. Pull the bundle of white poly yarn up and wrap a thread dam in front to help stand it up. Crisscross between then wrap each division to form wings that are as long as the hook shank. Trim them to the correct length. We used red thread to complete the process. You'll have to decide if you prefer the bother of switching to white or not. We think it adds a nice touch but is really not that important to anyone except us.

STEP 6 - Select, prepare, and tie a couple of brown hackle feathers. Wrap them to form a full, dry-fly application. Whip-finish and trim the thread to complete the fly. How do you like the fly's appearance with the tuft of foam left exposed directly behind the hackle? We kind of like it and feel the foam hump is less likely to pull out. It certainly won't hurt the pattern's floatation either.

Chapter 14 — Closing Thoughts

We hope The Humpy Encyclopedia has offered you some ideas on tying this fun-to-construct pattern. Over the years, we've sure enjoyed tying it in a number of different design configurations.

Most of those designs were by customer request. In some cases, the customer request soon became a personal favorite. For example the method of tying the Royal Humpy (Chapter 5) came from a long-time customer Dave Corcoran when he was the owner of the River's Edge Fly Shop in Bozeman, Montana. We used his method whether the pattern had calf wings or regular hair wing. We just like the way that style turns out. You'll find the same process used throughout this book but using different materials in place of the original pattern's hair fibers.

The foam hump came to us from a reader of Fly Fish America magazine where for a number of years we were the Fly Tying Editors. We don't remember the person's name but it was a pattern sent to us to feature in the magazine. We did so and as often happened, we recognized an interesting idea and jumped on it. We liked it and often use it.

Our treatment of the foam-hump-cut-off-point (not covering it with wrapped thread) came quite by accident when Al forgot to wrap over the trimmed strip end. He didn't notice the mistake until starting the hackle wrap and decided to finish the fly anyway rather than untying it to fix the mistake. We both thought the hump look pretty good and have used that method on our personal flies for the last several years. We like the way that little "nub" of foam pushes and holds the hackle in position behind the wings. We tried to get the public and fly-shop owners interested in the concept but like several other ideas we really liked, it just didn't catch on. You'll have to evaluate the concept and decide to use (or not use) it yourself.

Within the pages of *The Humpy Encyclopedia*, we've presented a number of options for constructing Humpies. At this point we'll leave those options with you to do with them as you see fit. There are no hard-and-fast rules so why not mix-and-match what we've offered here while developing your own Humpy style. Who knows! You may very well come up with a new pattern the fish just can't refuse. If you do, we'd sure like to know about it. We can be reached through our website (www.btsflyfishing.com) or via email (albeatty2@aol.com). If we use your idea(s) in written form, we'll give you credit. Now go to the next page to learn about printing a copy of this book at home.

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Poly Yarn Colors

One of the fun things about a PDF-downloadable book is we can change it at a moments notice. We recently forwarded a pre-release copy of it to a friend and he suggested we share a list of poly yarn colors we use. We thought, "Why not and here it is!"

The colors in the photograph are Floral Heather (top left), Black Heather (top right) then (left to right) Black, Grass, White, Pewter, Hot Lime and Orange. We also use Brown but it is not in the picture. One of the cool things about this product is a skein can be a life-time-supply for the average tier and you'll still have a lot left over to share with your fly tying friends.

Poly Yarn Sources

As already stated earlier in *The Humpy Encyclopedia*, we get our poly yarn from Amazon and eBay. You can as well. Just search either website for Phentex Slipper & Craft Yarn. Be very sure to purchase the "Slipper & Craft" version of the product because Phentex produces a number of other yarn products but we want the poly (Slipper & Craft) version.

Donations

Writing a book like this takes us months and entails a lot of work. We hate to ask but a small donation (like $5.00) would sure help us continue bringing this type of knowledge to all of you. If you can afford a donation, you may do so through our PayPal Account. OR you can send a donation directly to us at Gretchen & Al Beatty, 11965 W Reutzel Dr, Boise, ID 83709.

Whether you can donate or not, enjoy the book. We provide it to you so you can learn a few of many ways to tie a Humpy. Be sure to tell your friends, they also can get their free copy from our website at www.btsflyfishing.com. You'll find the download hyper link there on the home page, near the top of the right-hand side. Good tying &...

Tight Lines,

Gretchen & Al Beatty
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About The Authors

Gretchen & Al Beatty are long time fly fishers, fly tiers, photographers and writers from Boise, Idaho. They are best friends at the vise, on the water, at the computer keyboard, and behind the camera. When they are not working, they enjoy spoiling their four grand children. If you are interested, you can review their many DVDs and books on their website (www.btsflyfishing.com) or communicate with them via e-mail (albeatty2@aol.com).

Also, check out their You Tube Channel where they have numerous fly-tying tips and tricks for your viewing enjoyment. Type "al beatty channel" in the You Tube search engine.

This, *How to Tie* book is their first in a series, dual published as a free-download or as an Amazon print-media paperback, focused on dissecting a particular fly or technique allowing each reader or student to become an expert on the showcased topic - in this case it is tying the ubiquitous Humpy.

The Beatty's books are available through their website and via a download or paperback purchase at Amazon (www.amazon.com, search for Gretchen Al Beatty books).

Read, learn and enjoy!

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BT's Fly Fishing Products
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Why we write any particular book is not always an easy question to answer but that is not the case with *The Humpy Encyclopedia.* Quite frankly it is long over due. We can't tell you the number of times we've been asked how many ways there are to tie this fly. Al was asked the question numerous times at the many shows he attended before we got married and since then the comment comes up at least a couple of times per year. In fact, it's one of the main reasons we wrote our second book, *Tying Hair-Wing Flies,* in 1995. Within its pages, we demonstrated two ways to tie the fly and they were the sum total of what we had in our Humpy bag-of-tricks.

Since '95 we've learned a lot about tying this often "frustrating bundle of hair." The first thing we discovered was the mistaken impression the fly had to be tied out of hair. We found some synthetics materials produced a better, more durable, and higher floating fly than hair did. In time that discovery got the hair version kicked out of our personal fly boxes. Its replacement is the Poly Humpy with several variations; you'll find them all within these pages starting in Chapter 10.

Don't make the mistake of thinking you are already a very experienced fly tier and don't need the information in Chapter 1. It contains information important to successfully navigating the Humpy Highway.

Gretchen & Al Beatty are long time fly fishers, fly tiers, photographers and writers from Boise, Idaho. They are best friends at the vise, on the water, at the computer keyboard, and behind the camera. This, *How to Tie* free book is focused on dissecting a particular fly or technique allowing each reader or student to become an expert on the showcased topic - in this case it's tying the ubiquitous Humpy. The Beatty's books are available via download at www.btsflyfishing.com or as a paperback purchase at www.amazon.com.