

Soft Hackle Emerger



Class: Emerger

Originator: Unknown

Source: Tie Your Own

Clay's Notes

The Soft Hackle Emerger is a pattern that has been around for a long time. There are reasons why this pattern has produced so well. I have learned that Baetis do not fall onto the water in the spinner stage as many other mayflies do. Instead, Baetis crawl down sticks and rocks into the water to lay their eggs. After depositing the eggs, the spinners die and drift off with the current. I believe that this pattern effectively imitates these drowned spinners. The profile of the Soft Hackle Emerger matches that of the natural exactly. This pattern originally developed as an emerger imitation, but some people believe that it is most often taken as a drowned spinner. Either way, the fish eat it. You can fish it like a traditional wet-fly with a down and across swing and experience some jolting strikes. The cool thing about this pattern is that you can hardly fish it wrong; on the bottom, on the swing, in the surface film, drag free or sliding cross current, it has the profile to pull fish in.

Soft Hackle Emerger Tying Recipe

Hook: TMC 101 #16-22

Tails: Med Dun Betts Tailing Fibers, split

Wing: White Umpqua Flouro-Fiber

Thorax: Gray Beaver or Muskrat Dubbing

Thread: 10/0 Guidebrod, Gray

Abdomen: Gray Beaver or Muskrat Dubbing

Hackle: Med Dun Hen Neck Hackle, soft

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