

Hendrickson Compara Dun

(*Ephemerella Subvaria*)

Hook: Mustad 94840 (12-14)

Thread: Yellow or tan

Wing: Med. gray deer or elk hair

Tail: Med. gray hackle fibers

Body: Yellow gray dubbing fur



Tie in deer hair over a layer of thread with hair falling over sides of hook. Cut hair butts at an angle.



Pull the wing sharply back and make about 10 or 12 turns of thread in front of it.

Build a thread ball at the bend of the hook to help separate the tail fibers. I find thread is better to use than dubbing because dubbing can get too large in a hurry.





Tie in the hackle fibers for the tail. The ball of thread tied in previously will help to create a divided tail as the thread is pulling the tail fibers against it.



Dub to the wing and then use your thumb to push the wing upright on both the top and sides.



The dubbing can be crisscrossed under the wing to help align it. Dub to the front and whip finish. Don't forget your glue! The wing hair can be adjusted by pulling on it to get it just like you want it to be.



Completed Compara Dun

Compara duns are taking their place in the fisherman's fly box as being one of the most important of dry flies. They were first introduced to us by Bob Nastasi and Al Caucci in their 1972 publication, Comparahatch.

There are many different pattern descriptions for the compara dun fly. Experiment with these different variations and find out which work best for you at different times of the year.

Don't be afraid to try your own variations on this theme as well. Although deer and elk hair are probably best for the wing, the sky's the limit regarding thread color, dubbing and tailing material. Be creative - try some different materials and let us all know about your successes and failures.

(Note: Your editor used brown hackle fibers for the tail in this demonstration because the gray fibers got lost against the background! This article is best viewed with Adobe Acrobat at 100% magnification for the images and at 150% for the text.)