

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TYING PARACHUTE EMERGERS

by
Bob Stockton

The Parachute Emerger (generic name) or more appropriately called the Klinkhamer Special, was invented by Hans Von Klinken, a noted Dutch fly tyer, and first described in Trout on a Nymph by John Roberts, Crowood Press Ltd., Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wilshire, England (1991).

The Klinkhamer is regarded by Mr. Roberts, as well as by Yours Truly, as the "best river trout fly to be devised in the last ten years." Why? Because it mimics the emerging Mayfly in its most vulnerable stage, as it splits the shuck and penetrates the surface film with a life or death struggle to emerge as a dun. This moment in the fly's existence may last seconds or minutes, but it is absolutely transfixed in the primordial drive of every trout as "come and get it--supper's on the table!"

I tie this fly to imitate every species of fly, from the early season Hendricksons through March Browns, Sulphurs, Baetis and Olives, to Tricos and Isos. The only difference is the color combination, size, tail or shuck.

I have extensively experimented with the fly and improved it substantially by incorporating a "shuck" of brown Z-Lon. In addition, I add a rib of fine copper or gold wire. Finally, I transposed the single best nymph, a Pheasant Tail, into a "Pheasant Tail Klink"-- absolutely deadly. It should be illegal or immoral to use this fly!

ADVANTAGES OF A PARACHUTE EMERGER--KLINKHAMER

- (1) 85% of the body is below water--very visible to trout;
- (2) If properly tied, the parachute hackle and "post" are very visible to the fly fisherman;
- (3) It catches trout very, very effectively;
- (4) Very durable.

DISADVANTAGES OF A PARACHUTE EMERGER--KLINKHAMER

NONE--except:

- (1) slightly harder to tie than the usual Catskill dry fly;
- (2) not particularly good on very slow or still water.

EQUIPMENT

Hook: "Egg hook" or Caddis Hook--Tiemco 2457 or 2487 or Daiichi 1130 (size 8-20)

Thread: Color to match dubbing--prefer 6/0 waxed

Body: Any poly or natural dubbing (no floatant)

Thorax: Peacock herl or small ostrich herl

Wing
(Post): Z-Lon (white, grey or light dun) or calf tail or white poly-yarn, all tied upright

Hackle: To match the species being tied, eg. tan or brown for Hendricksons; light dun for olives; grizzly for most other species

Tail: Pheasant tail points, brown Z-Lon, sparse; or soft hen hackle splayed like a nymph tail.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

Place egg hook in vice so that lowest position of bend in hook is all that is in the vice (use of egg hook is critical to the success of this fly!) The eye should be high above the jaws. Wrap thread from middle of hook down to lowest point of hook above the jaws. Tie in tails or Z-Lon. Don't be concerned if tails and Z-Lon look "bent" at this time. (If desired, add light wire--copper or gold at this time, then begin dubbing by building conical shape up the hook to within 1/4 inch or less of the eye). Palmer the wire up the hook and tie off. Then [IMPT] wrap tying thread up to eye and back to dubbing. This will prevent turning or creeping of post. Now tie in post. [IMPT] Post must be as close as possible to eye with room for two turns of herl in front of post. If using Z-Lon, use a sufficient amount so that when cut to proper length, it will open up and look translucent. If using calf tail or elk hair, use a stacker to even the tips. [IMPT] Tie the body of the post away from the eye, towards the dubbing. This action will fill in the gap from the dubbing to the post and move the post to the eye. This is necessary so that as much of

the hook as possible "hangs" below the hackle and post and remains submerged.

If you have anchored the post, it must now be made to stand up. Do this by looping successive turns of thread in front of the post as you hold it backwards, towards the bend in the hook. [IMPT] The thread should be wrapped tightly at an angle, into the base of the post. Do at least 4-5 turns at this angle. Let go of the post. It should return to an upright position. Now lock in behind the post with three or four more wraps of thread. Now, tie in the herl, wrapping forward from the dubbing to the post, then two turns in front of the post. Then tie off the herl at the base of the post so that your thread is in close proximity with the post. Now for the ultimate "trick"--ROTATE YOUR VISE 90° so that the fly is lying on its side. The vise should be pointing at you. At this point, you can now wrap 4-6 progressively tighter turns at the base of the post, proceeding 1-2 mm. up the post. This will strengthen the post and provide a firm base for your hackle. Now select your hackle by using one size larger than usual for hackle measurement--eg. size 12 hackle for a 14 fly. Tie in the hackle stem with 3-4 firm wraps of thread. Using hackle pliers or firm grip, wrap the hackle clockwise (bobbin should be hanging under your vise). [IMPT] The hackle should be sparse. No more than 3-4 turns of good quality hackle. Turn the hackle under each wrap. Keeping tension on the hackle, take the bobbin and wrap three times around the base of the post, locking in the hackle. Use usual tie-off and clip thread near the post. Now restore fly to

vertical plane. It should have hackle splayed, parachute fashion, over the top of the entire hook and eye. Trim stragglers so that it is nice and flat on underside, allowing hook to hang down.

FISHING TECHNIQUE

Fish like any dry fly dun imitation. However, use "Sink Kote" or fly sink on the body. Use floatant only on the hackle and post. The fly will right itself when it hits the water. It is particularly effective in riffles, runs, and pocket water. It is also excellent as a "strike indicator," when used with a size 16 bead head off a 20" dropper.

Believe me, this fly is worth the effort to tie. I have used it locally and out West with equal distinction. I never use classical "Catskill" tied flies anymore. These Klinks are many times more effective and are outrageously righteous! Tie, have fun and rip some lips!