

A step at a time: MARABOU MUDDLER



Hook: Streamer or Long Nymph, #6-12
Thread: 8/0, black - GSP for head
Tail: Marabou tips, red
Body: Mylar tinsel, silver
Ribbing: French tinsel, silver
Wing: Wing: Marabou, yellow + 2 peacock herls on each side
Head/collar: Deer hair, spun

Step 1



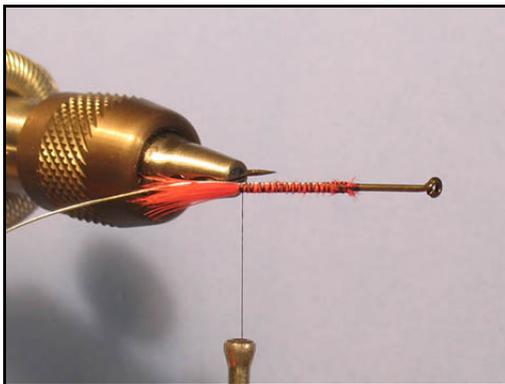
Mount a hook in the vise and cover the rear 2/3 of the shank with thread. Leave the head part bare.

Step 2



Tie in a few marabou tips for tail and tie down the surplus along the body part of the fly.

Step 3



Tie in a piece of french tinsel along the side of the hook.

Step 4



Wrap the thread back up to the start of the body.

Step 5



Tie in a piece of silver mylar tinsel.

Step 6



Wrap the mylar tinsel backwards over the body. Turn around at the tail and wrap it back up again. Secure it and cut the waste.

Step 7



Spiral wrap the french tinsel over the body and tie off.

Step 8



Tie in a generous bunch of marabou for wing.

Step 9



Add four peacock herls to the wing, two on each side.

Step 10



This is optional, but a way I prefer. Here I have tied off the regular tying thread and tied in a GSP thread instead. This is superb for deer hair work. The hook will break long before the thread.

Step 11



- 1: Prepare a bunch of deer hair and find your tie-in point.
- 2: Switch hand and cut down the other side a little bit. This makes it easier to control.
- 3: Lay a couple of loose wraps around the hook and the hair and then tighten the thread.
- 4: Let go of the bunch and allow the hairs to spin around the hook

Step 12



Pack the bunch backwards with your fingers or a hair packer.

Step 13



Make a few wraps immediately in front of the hairs to make them stay back there. First bunch in place...

Step 14



Here I've just laid a couple of loose wraps around the second bunch and the hook.

Step 15



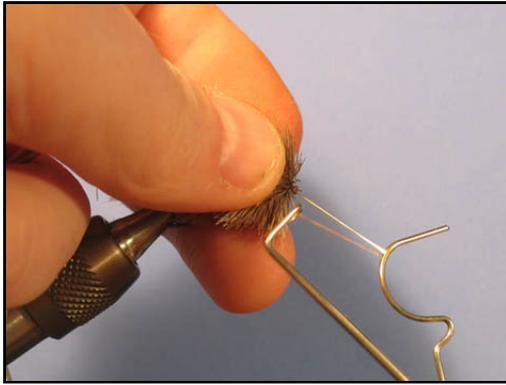
Tighten, let it spin and pack it backwards against the first. This time a hair packer is used though. Personal preference, but at least to me, this tool makes a difference to the better.

Step 16



"There is always room for another bunch." And here it has just been tied in and spun.

Step 17



But that last one said 'good bye hook shank' so it's time to tie off the thread.

Step 18



Scissors or razor blade... another personal preference. I prefer the razor blade for most of it, even though you have to be careful so you don't cut too much.

Step 19



Now we're going to do a series of straight cuts to create a symmetrical head to work from.

- 1: Start with a cut under the head. Straight backwards and relatively close to the hook. Continue with a cut on the upper side, in the same angle as the top of the wing.
- 2: Cut down the sides and make also two smaller cuts in against the hook eye.
- 3: Make the top-bottom versions of the hook eye cuts.
- 4: A rough head seen from the front.

Step 20



Cut around the back of the head to separate it from the collar and create a little neck. Cut only the butt end of the hairs.

Last trim and done...



With the symmetrical "pre-head", the only thing left is rounding off the edges. Don't do it "smaller", just rounder... and it will STAY symmetrical.

Top view...

