

“TLF Soft- Hackle Dry”

The pattern, TLF Soft-Hackle Dry Fly, it is a dry fly that I have been using for over 15 years and as evolved over time into what you see here. It contains a size #22 to #16 dry fly hackle in the thorax depending on the use. The length of thorax hackle barbs makes a difference in how the soft-hackle feather, (head hackle) acts when fished. The longer the thorax feather the more the head hackle stands out away from the body, when fished; the fly looks more like a cripple or spinner. The shorter thorax hackle makes the fly look more than an emerger or nymph when fished. The head hackle feather can be any hen cape to partridge. You can use a slightly stiffer head hackle feather for rougher water conditions

The size and color of the fly can vary depending on what you see on the water, match your hatch. The Soft-Hackle fly works, in fact any standard soft-hackle fly dressed with floatant will work when a lot of flies won't. I have found the soft-hackle dry fly will bring fish up before a hatch really gets going and do very well after a hatch as ended. The thorax hackle helps in the action and it helps hold floatant. All these little touches give you one fly that can represent the major phases of a hatch.



“TLF Soft-Hackle Dry BWO”

Hook: Standard dry fly hook #18 to # 12

Thread: 10/0 Veevus

Tail: Coq De Leon 6 to 8 fibers

Body: Lt olive fine dubbing

Rib: If used, use a tying thread wound tight, this is lighter than a metal rib.

Thorax: Dun/Olive super fine dubbing and a size #22 dry fly hackle, Dun or Furnance.

Hackle: Lt. grey mallard or partridge feather. Note: for the mallard it maybe necessary to use one of the hackle shortening techquies to get the head hackle the proper length.

- 1- Lock in the thread about eye width from the eye and wind rearward laying down a thread base about half down the hook shank.
- 2- Tye in the Coq De Leon tailing material, keeping it on top of the hook wrap to the barb of the hook, tail length should be about the body length.
- 3- Dub the super fine dubbing and wind forward, forming a tapered body to the 2/3 point on the hook. Note: keep the body slim, this makes a real difference. Add the rib if used.
- 4- Tye in the size #22 dry fly hackle and then dub a very small amount the dun/olive dubbing and wind in thorax. Take 2 winds of thorax hackle through the thorax dubbing leaving a gap between the wraps and leave enough room behind the hook-eye for the head hackle and tye off.
- 5- If using the mallard feather use the dubbing loop method of shorting long barbs to get the length you want. If using a partridge feather use one with a length that reaches the bend of the hook and tye in with just 2 or 3 wraps. Taking the first wrap in between the thorax hackle wraps and then the last warps in front and tye off.
- 6- Finish with a nice neat head of tying thread.

“Good Luck and Good Hunting”

Jerry Criss 541-536-3581 (tfly44@msn.com)