

Wallywing Midge

Pattern by J. B. Sunderland 2012

Tail: cock hackle barbs
Body: biot or single barb, Canada goose
Thorax cover: black foam strip
Wings: mallard flank preferred
Hackle, collar: cock, grizzle



Thread to bend, tying in a small bunch of cock hackle barbs as a tail. [1]
Tie in a Canada goose biot, wind it to 1/4 back from the eye, secure and trim. [2]
Thread forward a little, tie in a small strip of black foam, lash it down back to between 1/3 and 1/2 the shank, then thread halfway forward toward the eye. [3]

Prepare the mallard feather:

Stroke the barbs back, retaining a bunch of tip barbs. [4]
Select the barbs on a length of quill equal to the length of wing (perhaps a little more than the body length) [5]
Strip away the barbs which remain toward the butt. [6]

Holding the feather tip in the right thumb and forefinger, stroke the rest of the barbs back with the left thumb and forefinger.

(It might help to damp the feather at this stage)

Offer it to the hook with the feather curving down over the eye. [7]

Position it on the shank with 2 turns of thread. If it needs to be longer, pull it through the thread a little. [8]

Now pull it back very slightly by the QUILL ONLY so that the barbs bow outwards just a little. Lash down firmly to the shank.[9]

Tie in a cock hackle behind the wing. Finish with the thread behind the eye.[10]*

Take hold of 1 or 2 barbs from the feather tip, just in front of the wing. [11]

Holding the tip firmly, pull the barb back to strip back with the barbs remaining attached to a portion of the quill.[12]

Repeat on the other side [13]

Trim away the remaining centre of the quill and wind the hackle 2 turns behind the wing and 2 in front. [14]

Pull the foam thorax cover forward, separating the hackle and the wings. Do not pull it down tightly. Secure it behind the eye.

Trim the foam, leaving a small 'head' and whip finish. [15]

Finally, trim away all hackle barbs which point downwards below the shank.

** The hackle can be tied in after Step 13, stripping the wings, if preferred.*

