

Fly of the Month
Spring Creek Partridge Caddis
By Greg Chester

Recipe



Hook #14 Tiemco 100 dry fly hook
(I like the Tiemco 900BL
also)
Thread 8/0 olive Unithread
Shuck and underwing Olive antron yarn
Abdomen Green turkey or goose biot
Overwing Hungarian Partridge feather
Post Poly yarn, white
Thorax Olive dubbing, Superfine
Hackle Grizzly saddle

It seems caddis aren't too popular on the Bitterroot these days although I find loads of them when turning over rocks. I therefore always have a few patterns in my box should I be lucky enough to enjoy a hatch. Geoff Fitzgerald and I were wading the East Fork in August and were having fair success with mayfly nymphs and a few cinnamon ants. At about 9:30 AM a tan caddis hatch commenced and we switched to Elk Hair Caddis and X-Caddis patterns with improved success. Then a darker caddis took over and required a bug change. A quick search through my boxes yielded a pattern I've been working on lately. It's adapted from patterns by Rene Harrop, Mike Lawson and Gary Lafontaine. I simply call it a Spring Creek Partridge since Rene, Mike and Gary used their patterns in slow moving waters around Montana and Idaho. I've had great success with this bug for Harriman Ranch and Silver Creek hatches and it was red hot for the East Fork fish in August. We both caught loads of good fish topped by an 18 and 19 incher. Pretty amazing considering the smallish water.

It's a fairly straightforward tie with common materials but I've included step-by-step instructions and a photo to aid in your tying. The photos and Recipe are for an olive pattern. Adjust colors accordingly for any caddis:

Tying Instructions

- Attach thread and tie back to a point over the hook barb
- Tie in a single ply of antron yarn leaving a short length for the tail with the

remaining length of yarn toward the hook eye.

- Wrap thread over yarn to the midpoint of the shank.
- Wrap back to the hook barb and attach the biot. Note the “notch” orientation at the biot end in the photo. I moisten the biot just prior to tying in to reduce the chance of it breaking. Wrap the biot forward with neat, overlapping wraps resulting in a nicely segmented abdomen.



the hook.

- At the wing position tie in a length of poly yarn as if tying in spent wings. Bring the 2 wings upright together and create a post by wrapping thread at the base of the poly yarn. This method of tying in posts greatly reduces bulk in the thorax area.

Tie in the hackle but don't wrap yet.

- Dub a thorax on either side of the post.
- Wrap hackle parachute style – about 5 wraps and tie off.
- Form a neat head, whip finish, cement the head and the fly is complete.

I like the parachute/post style if it doesn't scare the fish. With very picky fish I tie it with conventional hackling over a peacock herl base and I trim a “v” in the hackle under the hook so it floats flat in the surface film. It's a bit harder to see but seems to perform better with picky trout.

Good Luck!

- Tie off biot and tie back underwing. Trim underwing at about the end of the hook and comb out fibers of both the shuck and underwing.
- Prepare and tie in a mottled Partridge feather. Take care to keep the feather centered on the hook with a length extending beyond the end of