

# Fly of the Month

by Bob Pearcy

## Iris Caddis

### Recipe

Hook: Tiemco 100, size 16  
Thread: Rusty Dun, 8/0  
Shuck: Crinkled amber Zelon  
Abdomen: Natural tan hare's ear dubbing  
Wing: Straight white Zelon, tied in as a loop

Thorax: Hare's ear dubbing

This is a pattern developed by the guys at Blue Ribbon Flies. It has been an effective pattern for me during caddis hatches for browns and rainbows sipping emerging caddis on the Bighorn River and for big grayling and rainbows in Alaska last summer. It may be taken as a cripple since emerging caddis pop right out of the surface making them a more difficult target for rising trout than a longer-floating cripple. Often it is tied with the same natural hairs ear dubbing for the abdomen and thorax but

I prefer a slightly darker thorax tied with hair plucked from the darker areas of a hare's mask. I must admit though that I have no empirical evidence that it works better, maybe it just looks better to me! The abdomen and thorax should be tied shaggy as shown to aid in floatation and to better match the overall appearance of a caddis. The abdomen color can be varied to mimic different species. The natural tan version shown is a good fly for the *Brachycentrus* (Grannom or Mothers Day) caddis hatches while an olive abdomen matches many of the *Hydropsyche* caddis species commonly observed on summer evenings and early mornings.



Top View



Side View