



# “SPARKLE DUN”

July 2008 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed  
By Robert Rountree

## MATERIALS

- HOOK:** Standard Dry Fly #12-20  
**THREAD:** 6/0 color to match body (olive, gray, etc.)  
**WING:** Deer Hair (or stripped CDC barbs for Sz. 18-20)  
**TAIL:** Clear Antron yarn (or Amber with gray body, etc.)  
**BODY:** Olive brown dubbing (or gray, etc.)

## Tying Instructions

**The Sparkle Dun is a great emerger pattern that imitates a mayfly emerging from it's nymphal shuck.**

This pattern is a variation of the Compara Dun, and the originator is Craig Mathews. This fly is utilized to pursue trout, and is most useful for fishing smooth glides of water. I have personally used it with success fishing Baum Lake in the Burney area during one of the usual morning Mayfly hatches. This can be tied in a variety of colors to match whatever mayfly is around your favorite spot. Tying this fly gets more difficult as you move down in size (e.g., 18-20) and stripped CDC barbs can be substituted for deer hair in the wing on the smaller size hooks. I researched this pattern from a couple of books: The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying by Ted Leeson & Jim Schollmeyer and the Fly-Tying Bible by Peter Gath-ercole.

1. **(Photo 1)** Place hook in vise, lay thread foundation over approximate front half of hook, and leave thread hanging about 1/3 of shank length behind the eye. Thread foundation will help to keep the deer hair from spinning around the hook. Clean and stack a pinch of deer hair for the wing. The bundle of deer hair should be about 1/2 the hook gap in thickness. Measure length of deer hair just slightly less than the length of hook shank. Place bundle of deer hair atop hook with the tips extending past eye, make a few loose wraps at tie in position, and then pull thread up to tighten the bundle down without spinning the deer hair completely around the hook. May need to put a few subsequent wraps through the butt end of deer hair to lock it in place.



Photo 1

2. **(Photo 2)** Trim the butt end of deer hair off at an angle, and cover with thread. Ensure that you taper the thread with fatter end up against the deer hair.



Photo 2

3. **(Photo 3)** Begin posting the wing (or forming Arc Wing). Wrap the thread forward the front base of the wing (i.e., the other side of the wing), lifting the deer hair to place a wrap directly against the base. Keeping the bundle of deer hair preened backwards, build a cone-shaped ramp of thread on this opposite side of wing. Add thread wraps until wing is standing in vertical position.



Photo 3

4. **(Photo 4)** Time to flare the wing into position. Preen the the deer hair towards the sides of the shank with your fingers in a 180-degree arc. Try to distribute the deer hairs as evenly as possible. Move the thread to the back of the fly at the barb position. This was a tough photo to take!



Photo 4

## “SPARKLE DUN”

(Continued)

Photo 5



5. **(Photo 5)** Tie in sparse Antron tail. Trim to approximately hook-gap length. I used white Antron yarn here for a little better contrast for photo

6. **(Photo 6)** Let's dub the body. Use the direct dubbing method, and dub a tapered body with a slightly enlarged thorax. At the wing, crisscross underneath to cover the underside and try to avoid leaving any dubbing gaps. Dub to within approximately 3 thread-wraps' distance of the hook eye, and build a thread head. Add a little head cement, and you're done. It's time to go fishing.



*“Sparkle Dun”*