

Fly of the Month

The Zug Bug



Hook :- 14-12-10 Nymph or wet fly

Tail :- Peacock sword feather fibres

Rib :- Silver tinsel or wire

Body :- Peacock herl

Hackle :- Brown hen

Wing :- Clipped mallard flank feather

The Zug Bug is an American fly designed in the 1930s by Cliff Zug to represent an uncased caddis although it is generally fished as a nymph or a nice buggy looking lure. It's a straightforward fly to tie from readily available materials, which makes it ideal for the novice tyer.

Start by taking foundation thread from eye to bend of hook and tie in a tail of three or four strands of peacock sword feather fibres about half shank length. Bind the fibres down tight along the shank to a couple of millimetres behind the eye, trim them and then take thread back to tail tie-in point. Attach a length of silver tinsel and a couple of herls from a peacock eye feather. Wind the herls forward making a cigar shaped body, tie off just back from the eye and trim, remembering to leave room to attach the hackle and wing. Next counter-wind the tinsel through the peacock body in three or four turns and tie off at the same point as the body. Use a few turns of thread between body and hook eye to make a nice base and then attach the hen hackle which should have fibres a bit longer than the hook gape. Make three or four turns of the hen hackle stroking the fibres back as you go so that they slope to the rear and tie down. You can also stroke the hackle downwards as well as to the rear as you tie it in so that there is more below the body than on top. Take a mallard flank feather or similar, strip some of the fibres off and attach it on top of the hook behind the eye. If you just use a couple of turns initially you can then pull the stem of the feather through the turns so it sits nicely on top of the body ready for a few more tight turns to lay it flat, and then cut it to the wedge shape shown in the picture above. Trim the stem, build up a small head, varnish it and the fly is finished.



Uncased caddis

About the only variations are the colour of the hackle and wing. Body and tail are always the nice attractive green of peacock herl. The Zug Bug can also be weighted with a bead head and/or lead underbody.



Alan T.

