

## Fly of the Month

## The Comparadun



Hook :- Dry fly 14-12-10

Tail :- Originally elk hair, moose mane fibres or similar.

Body :- Fine dubbing, colour to suit

Wing :- Deer hair

The Comparadun was introduced to the world by Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi in their 1975 book 'Hatches'. It has become probably the most successful hackle-less dry fly and comes in a vast range of colours to suit local conditions, but the feature that makes it a Comparadun is the fan shaped deer hair wing which is highly visible and stops the fly rolling as it sits flush in the surface film.



Start the comparadun by laying a thread base from the eye to about a quarter of the way back from the eye. This will be the tie in point for the deer hair wing. Snip a small bunch of deer hair from your patch, even up the tips in your hair stacker, clean out the fluff and short hairs and then hold the bunch on top of the hook so that a shank's length of the tips is pointing forward from the tie in point. Pinch the hair firmly against the hook and then hold it in place with a couple of loose turns followed by a few really tight turns. This will cause the deer hair to flare around the hook. Now take your thread to in front of the wing, pull up any deer hair that's below the shank and, while still holding up that hair, put some turns of thread against the base of them to force them upright. You can now take the thread back behind the wing, snip the deer hair butts and lash them down. The thread is now taken to the tail attachment point above the barb and a few fibres of your chosen tail material tied in. The original was elk hair or moose mane but in practice any stiffish hair fibres or micro fibbets will do the job. The next step is to dub the thread and wind it forward, building up a tapered body. Cover the trimmed butts of the deer hair and then make a few turns of the dubbed thread between the wing and hook eye. Apart from whip finishing and applying head cement the fly is now finished. All you need now is to find a dun hatch going on !

A popular variation is to use Krystal Flash, strands of acrylic yarn or similar for the tail. This is supposed to represent a trailing shuck that the emerging mayfly hasn't quite shaken off and is called the Sparkle Dun. Some tyers like to have the wing in the centre of the hook shank and an equal amount of body each side of it. You could also rib the body between the tail and wing. The only other variations are in the colour of the body, grey and olive probably being the most common.



*Alan T.*

