

**Fly of the Month**

**The Grey Duster**



- Hook :- Dry fly 20-10
- Thread :- Grey or black
- Tail :- Optional. Badger cock hackle fibres
- Body :- Dubbed grey rabbit fur
- Hackle :- Badger cock saddle feather

The Grey Duster is a fly of Welsh origin that has been around for a very long time. Many rate it as one of the best all round dry flies there is and state that in its various sizes it can be fished from the first to the last day of the season. In smaller sizes its black and white colouring make it a good midge or caenid imitation, and tied on a size 10 hook with a bushier hackle it is said to take fish feeding on mayflies when standard patterns fail. The inbetween sizes make it a good searching dry fly. Many top UK and European fishermen wouldn't be without a few in their fly box.

With only two materials, plus thread and hook, the Grey Duster is a nice straightforward fly to tie. As usual, lay a base foundation thread from eye to bend and there tie in four or five fibres from a quality badger cock hackle. The original dressing didn't include a tail but most fly fishers seem to like their dries to have one. It may be an idea to omit the tail if using the small sizes for midges. Now dub the thread with some fine grey rabbit underfur.....a few guard hairs in the dubbing won't hurt. Build up a fairly slim body leaving room behind the eye for four or five turns of the badger hackle feather which should have fibres a little longer than the hook gape. A small varnished head and the fly is finished.



*Badger cock saddle feathers*

Parachute hackled Grey Dusters are a popular variation, in which case a post of white poly yarn or acrylic is used well forward on the shank.



*Alan T.*

