

# FLY OF THE MONTH

The Almost There Baetis

by

Dennis Westover

This pattern comes from Blue Ribbon Flies of West Yellowstone and is an easy-to-tie and simple emerger pattern that seems to fool trout wherever I have fished it. Big, smart trout will usually opt for an emerger or cripple pattern floating down in the film over a high floating dun pattern and this tie qualifies in every respect. Even the most inexperienced tier should be able to knock out a dozen of this pattern in under an hour.



Hook: Daichi 1140 Or 1150, size 18 and 20

Thread: Uni 8/0 Olive Dun

Tail: three lemon wood duck fibers

Body: Tying thread

Thorax: Gray-Olive Beaver or Superfine dubbing

Wing: Enrico Puglisi EP Trigger Point Fibers BWO

Begin by wrapping a thread base from just behind the eye to about one third of the way down the hook bend. Tie in three lemon wood duck fibers and then wrap your thread forward forming the body of the fly with the thread. Dub a ball of gray-olive beaver or superfine dubbing forming a thorax. Wrap the thread forward to the hook eye forming a thread base and tie in the wing using two or three wraps to secure the wing and then one wrap behind the wing. Lift the excess wing material forward of the tie in point and whip finish. Cut the excess material protruding over the hook eye (Elk Hair Caddis style).

Trim the back of the wing even with the tie in point for the tail.

An important step in building a durable version of this pattern is laying down a thin thread base forward of the dubbing ball thorax. The thread base prevents the wing material (very slippery stuff) from rotating around the hook shank.

For those of you with aging eyes try fishing this pattern as a short trailer fly off a larger ant, beetle or parachute pattern that you can see. Enjoy!