

# Parachute Flies

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So it's winter, and you are craving something to do that's related to fly fishing. Why not improve your technique in tying parachute dry flies? They give some tyers fits, but I have a few tricks to pass along that make them a snap. And it's worth the effort; parachutes are dynamite-effective!

Let's take a typical pattern and look at how to put it together. I'm assuming you already have a general idea of how to tie a parachute, so I'm simply focusing on the little tricks that make the whole thing work.

Hook	Typical dry fly, such as my favorite, Daiichi model 1180, sizes
Thread	Uni-Thread 8/0 or similar, beige, tan, or olive.
Wing Post	White hair, such as calf tail.
Tails (optional)	Two small bunches of stiff grizzly or cree hackle barbs, di-
Body/Thorax	Beige, gray or olive dubbing, or a mix of these.
Hackle	Grizzly or cree, tied parachute-style.

## The Tying Sequence:



*Step 1.* Tie on and stand up the wing post, then tie the tail and the body. The body should end just in front of the wing post.



*Step 2.* Tie on the hackle dull-side-down in front of the wing post on top of the hook, with the main feather pointing off to the rear. Leave a bit of bare quill showing.



*Step 3.* Stand the hackle feather up and take a 1/2 dozen or so turns of thread at the very base of the wing post, binding the quill in with the hair. The feather will point straight upward; that's ok. This adds stiffness to the wrapping area, and positions the hackle feather in optimum starting position.



*Step 4.* Have a heavy hackle plier at hand. Wrap the hackle counterclockwise, looking down from above. Use moderate tension, and sneak each turn just below the previous one.

## Parachute Flies continued



*Step 5.* Let the hackle feather and the tying thread hang to together off the far side of the hook adjacent to the wing post, suspended respectively by the weight of the bobbin and hackle pliers. With a tooth pick, apply a generous droplet of Zap-A-Gap super-glue, making sure it penetrates the base of the wing post, the quill of the feather, and the thread. Rub it with the tooth pick to accelerate drying.



*Step 6.* When the glue is completely dry, simply cut off the excess thread and quill. No messy and tedious tie-offs and whip-finish knots! If you have two vises, you can tie in tandem, so to speak, allowing one fly to dry while tying another. Note that where two hackles are required, such as with the Adams Parachute, you can wrap both feathers together, and thus utilize this finishing technique.

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