

# Trico & Blue-Winged Olive

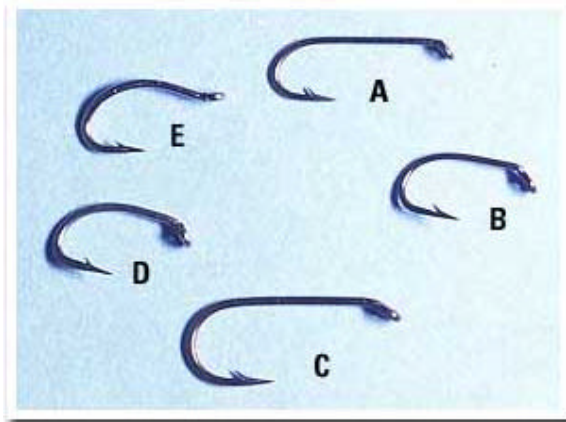
August 22, 2002

Do you hate tying and fishing with tiny flies? That's really too bad; they can be just unbelievably effective. Think about it; when the bugs are very small, the trout have to eat a lot of them to get a good meal. Also -- it's so much easier to fool a fish with a small fly than a large one. I call that the "speck" principal.

There are Tricos all over the place right now, and itty-bitty Blue-Winged Olives coming soon. Here are a few tying tips that may relieve some of the pain.

First, use a hook that will work, meaning one with sufficient gape to engage effectively. Those in the photo are:

- A Size 22 Partridge E1A
- B Size 22 Daiichi J220
- C Size 24 Partridge J1A
- D Size 22 Daiichi J220
- E Size 18 Partridge L3A



Other hook manufacturers offer tiny hooks of good design and quality, notably Tiemco.



Second, use a vise with jaws that will accommodate small hooks. The one in the photo is the HMH with the "special-purpose" jaws, ideal for the purpose. Hopefully, your vise has angle adjustment capability, so that you can slant the assembly upward at a steep angle, so as to allow ease of access from the rear.

Third, use threads and tools that will work for tying tiny flies. There are many choices. Tell your dealer what you're up to, and hopefully he'll steer you in the right direction.

Now for a tying sequence. This is a compromise Trico pattern my old fishing buddy Del Bedinotti showed me. It works for both duns and spinners which with Tricos is important, as the interval between the emergence of the dun and the return of the spinner is so brief that often both are on the water at the same time.

## Tying Procedure:

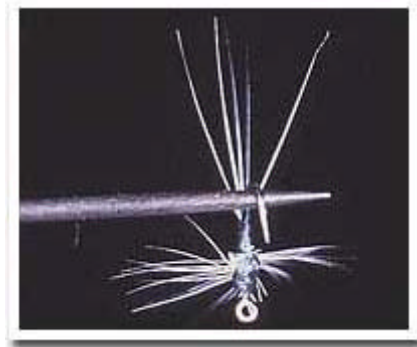


*Step 1.* On such minute flies, the tying thread is also the body. Here, I use a funky green thread to emulate the egg mass in the female spinner. I attach a sparse tail; a few hackle or Microfibt fibers, well-spread.



*Step 2.* Wrap a hackle of white or pale watery dun. Very small hackles are found on capes from Whiting Farms; both the Hoffman and Hebert strains have them. Cut a little "V" in the bottom of the hackle and make a few criss-cross wraps through the "V" on the bottom, thus forming a thorax. This positions the hackle as shown.

# Trico & Blue-Winged Olive continued



*Step 3.* Here's what the finished product looks like from below.

Here's an experimental BWO dressing I've come up with:



*Step 1.* Use olive thread. Tie on a small clump of Poly Bear or similar sparkly synthetic material in a fore-and-aft position as shown.



*Step 2.* Wrap the body, then stand up the front portion of the Poly Bear. Cut it to the desired length, then prune out the tail fibers so the tail is quite sparse, and cut it to length.

This produces an interesting and alluring image. It could be an emerger, a struggling dun, or even a spinner. Whatever it looks like to the trout, they think it's real yummy.

For other Fly Tying Projects, please visit my website at [www.dicktalleur.com](http://www.dicktalleur.com). You will also find information about past and upcoming guided fishing trips, my books and instructional videotapes, recommended products, and upcoming classes and shows.

