

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## Traditional Adams

*contributed by*  
**Marie Boyer**

I caught my first rainbow on the fly, May 2015 on the Thompson River, but the scenery and quiet of the Skagit is where I became hooked on Fly Fishing.

I joined a group to be able to go fishing, for two years we fished rivers, about a dozen outings in all. I relied on soaking up knowledge from fellow fly fishers as to what patterns to use and how to fish them. With the majority of my fishing on rivers and streams, I would have to say my favourite pattern is the Traditional Adams.

Traditional dry flies have hackle fiber tails, slender bodies, upright wings and collars of stiff hackles. The Adams is one of those traditional dry flies. It was originally tied to represent a

flying Caddis, but also imitates mayfly duns. The mottled grizzly and brown hackles represent the whirring wings of the natural Caddis adult attempting to fly from the water. The tail, body and hackle have the same footprint on the water that give the same light impressions as the naturals. That's often more important than an exact imitation of an insect, especially on riffles and runs, where the trout doesn't get a long look at the fly and must make a quick decision to take or refuse. The traditional Adams is the most important fly in the traditional style to tie and carry in your fly box.

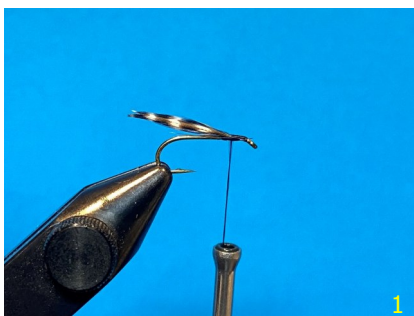
### MATERIALS



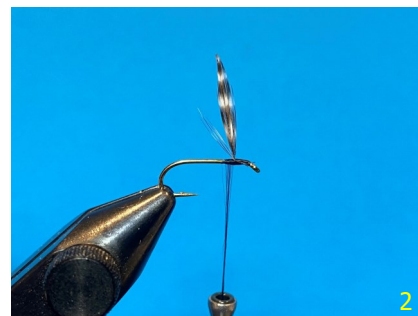
#### List of Materials:

- Hook - Standard Dry Fly Sizes 12,14,16 & 18
- Thread - Black 8/0
- Tail - Mixed Grizzly & Brown Hackle Fibers
- Wings - Hen Grizzly Hackle Tips
- Body - Muskrat Fur Dubbing
- Hackle - Grizzly & Brown Hackle

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

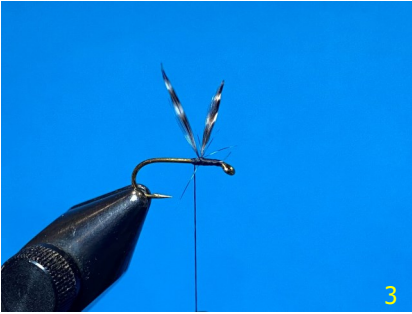


- 1 Start the thread at the eye and cover the front 1/3rd of the shank. Tie in two Grizzly hackle tips that are a shank length long. Tips to be placed with the shiny sides together so their natural curve splays them apart.
- 2 Once the tips are tied in, stand the tips up and place several thread wraps behind them to stand them upright.



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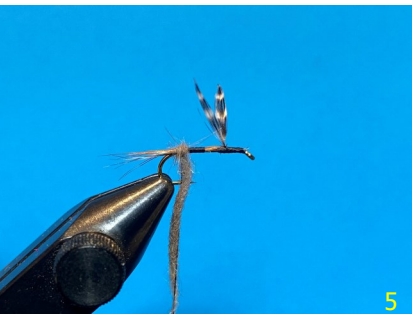
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3 With the wings vertical split the two wings and use a couple of figure 8 wraps to keep them separated.



4 Wrap the thread to the bend of the hook and tie in about 6 Grizzly hackle fibers and 6 Brown hackle fibers. Roll them in your fingers to mix the fibers. The tail should be about the hook shank in length.



5 Clip a small clump of Muskrat fur from the hide, remove the long guard hairs. Mix in your fingers then dub onto the thread.



6 Wrap the dubbing up to the wings creating a carrot shaped body.



7 Select a Grizzly and a Brown hackle with fibers about 2 hook gaps in length and tie them in by the stems.



8 Wrap the Grizzly hackle twice behind the wings and then four or five times in front of the wing. Tie off and clip the remainder.



9 Now take the Brown Hackle and once again wrap twice behind the wings and four or five times in front of the wing. Tie off and clip the remainder.



10 Build a small black thread head. Using a hackle guard to protect the hackles, place some head cement on the thread and whip finish.

*Tight Lines & Good Luck!*