

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## HENDRICKSON

*contributed by*

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The Hendrickson fly is a Catskill's classic, highly effective fly used to imitate the Hendrickson Mayfly.

The Hendrickson Mayfly is a significant early-season hatch for trout, especially in Eastern North America. It comes in two main types: the reddish-brown Dark Hendrickson (*male*) and the cream-colored Light Hendrickson (*female*). Both essential for anglers targeting hungry trout emerging from nymphs in spring.

Roy Steenrod is the creator of the fly and he named it after his friend A.E. Hendrickson in 1916. This fly transformed Steenrod into a fly-fishing legend, and further cements the mythical status of the small town near where it was created; the town where the Upper Beaverkill and Willowemoc Creek join to form the Lower Beaverkill in Roscoe, New York.

The Latin name for the Eastern Mayflies hatching is *Ephemera subvaria*, but now have the name Hendrickson because of the fly Roy Steenrod created in 1916.

I use a lighter dubbing for the Original, called "Hendrickson Pink" from a collection called "Fine & Dry" by Spirit River.

I have had great success using this colour on the Skagit River when dead drifted on a dry line.



## MATERIALS



|                |                                                                   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hook:</b>   | Standard Dry Fly. Tiemco 100.<br>Sizes: #12 to #16                |
| <b>Thread:</b> | Uni 8/0 Grey                                                      |
| <b>Tail:</b>   | Blue Dun Hackle Fibres                                            |
| <b>Body:</b>   | Pinkish tan dubbing<br>( <i>Spirit River - Hendrickson Pink</i> ) |
| <b>Wing:</b>   | Mallard Flank, dyed Woodduck                                      |
| <b>Hackle:</b> | Blue Dun Hackle                                                   |

## TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Pinch the barb and place the hook in the vise. Start thread one eye length back from the eye. Wrap the thread to the 1/3 point of the hook shank.
2. Take a single Mallard feather and clip out the tip, stroke the fibres together. Measure so the wing is a full shank length long and tie in with the fibres facing forward. Make several thread wraps then cut the stem and remaining feathers at an angle.



## TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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3. Lift the wing and place wraps of thread in front of the wing to stand it up. Split the wing in two and using figure eight wraps divide the wing.



4. With the thread now in line with the hook point strip about a dozen stiff Blue Dun hackle fibres and even the tips. Tie in on top of the shank to form a tail about a shank length long.



5. Dub the dubbing on to the thread and form a slim tapered body stopping just shy of the base of the wing.



6. Select a single blue dun hackle (slight longer fibres than standard in true Catskill fashion). Snip off the base of the feather where the webby fibres start. Strip about 1/8" of the fibres off the end of the feather and tie onto the shank at a 45 degree angle beside the wing with the dull side of the feather the tyer. Continue wrapping the thread up to the start of the thread behind the hook eye.



7. With hackle pliers wrap the hackle twice behind the wing then in front of the wing until you are up to the thread. Tie off and clip the excess hackle



8. Whip finish after applying a small dab of Sally Hansens to the thread. Cut the thread and go fishing.



9. Finished fly from above

*Tight Lines & Good Luck!*