

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## PARACHUTE MADAME X

contributed by  
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### *Pull the Chute? The Adventures of Frankenfly*

"Pee me Eeehx!": That was the response, more often than not, from our intrepid Patagonian guide, Alex when it came down to the question of fly selection on our now epic (in our Walter Mitty minds) junket to the Southern Cross.



Whether it was fast water, slow water, pockets and cutbanks, this was the ticket for what I needed for 80% of my dry fly work on a memorable trip filled with wine, trout and generally bad behavior. I got over the extra effort to tie this, as the "on the stream" time saving was worth it.

Like a high school girl prepping for the prom, I spent weeks tying dozens of my usual repertoire of Elk Hair Caddis, Adams, Royal Wulffs and Paradrakes. When push came to shove each of these had flamed out with some deficiency that made me double clutch when switching up.

- My beloved EHC, besides being tough to spot in rough water, would often land upside down, or sink after more than three fish.

- Adams: great fly, but would land any which way, two fish limit, invisible.
- Royal Wulff: visible but upside down, three fish down.
- Paradrake: floatation, floatation, floatation issues!

Am I too demanding to expect my dry to survive a mauling and keep on ticking for more than three fish? Am I subscribing to the "Pamela Anderson theory" that more is better.

The PMX or Parachute Madam X represents the melding of all the elements that make a great dry fly, kinda like mixing poutine, foie gras, bacon and beer in one meal. Crossing a Royal Wulff with an Elk Hair and Parachute Adams is in that vein.



I no longer care if I don't have a clue what exactly I am trying to imitate. A whole load of Argentinian and BC trout haven't seemed to care either.

## MATERIALS



**Hook:** Standard Dry Fly - #8 to #16.

*I am very partial to Tiemco 921's in sizes less than 14 due to slightly wider gap/short shank which seems to hold better on bigger active fish. This fly gets bit busy on a #16 but still worthwhile. Less than that, go simpler.*

**Body:** Peacock Herl

**Mid Body:** Red or Yellow Floss

**Back Wing:** Elk Hair

**Parachute:** White Polypropylene Yarn

**Hackle:** Brown or Cree, tied parachute

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

*Photography by Peter Chatt*

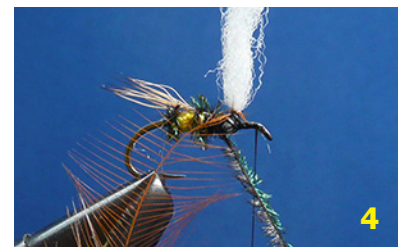


- De-barb the hook
- Tie in clump of Polypropylene ¾ way along shank pointing forward. Elevate to vertical and wrap thread 8 times around base to form post.
- Put dab of head cement at base.
- Tie in 1 piece of peacock at back end. Wrap 2 turns, tie off but do not cut.



- Tie in floss ahead of peacock, wrap 2 turns ahead. This should bring thread to within one turn of base of post with peacock end still attached. Tie off and cut.

- Tie in clump of stacked elk hair pointing back just behind parachute. Back wing should extend just beyond curve of hook. Trim butt ends closely and tie down. This is touchy step to keep tidy.



- Tie in hackle at base of post and make one turn of peacock over butts of elk.



- Wrap hackle around post in parachute style, preferably 6-8 turns if good hackle. Tie off. Touch of cement at this point is useful.

**NOTE:** First wrap around the post should be slightly elevated above the shank of the hook. Each successive wrap should be below the previous one. After final wrap, tie off behind eye of hook, and clip excess.



*The Finished Fly*



*Parachute Madame X*

- Make 2 more turns of peacock around base of post and forward to head.
- Trim the post.
- Tie off and whip finish.

