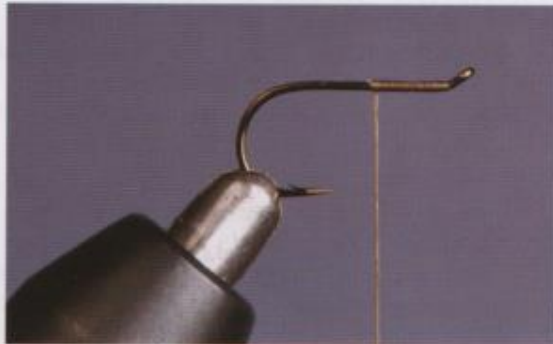


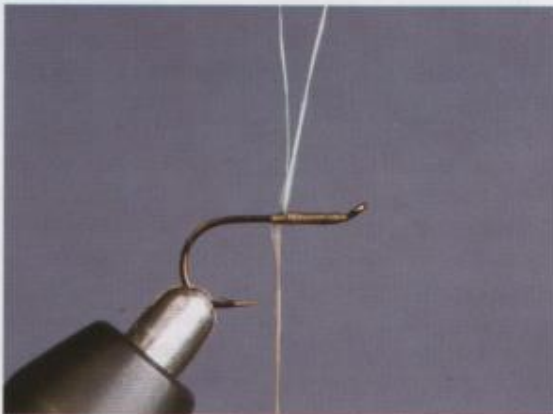
Tying the Olive Dun Paraloop



1. Insert the hook carefully into the vice jaws, testing it for soundness. Adjust the gallows tool (sometimes it is necessary to bend the gallows tool to fit), making sure the gallows tool hook is above the hook shank. Wax the thread by pulling it through a block of wax (2/6). Wind the thread approximately to the halfway point along the hook shank – just short of the halfway point is ideal – using flat thread. For information on winding flat thread, please see chapter 2, section 8.



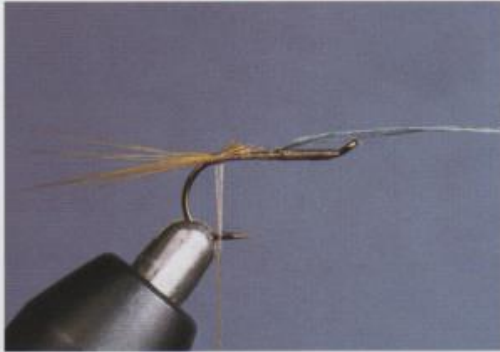
2. The first item to attach is the post, which will form the foundation for the hackle. Take a 5 in piece of the fine GSP floss and fold it in two. Any very strong but thin polypropylene floss or thread will do, if GSP is not available. Offer it to the top of the hook shank with the loose ends facing the hook eye.



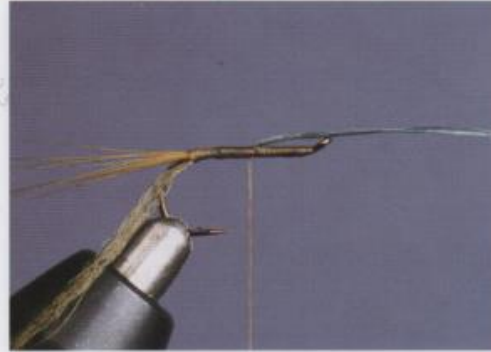
3. Using the loose-loop/pinch-and-loop method (4/5), tie in the floss on the top of the hook shank. Continue tying along the shank, using flat thread, towards the hook eye, and making sure you leave enough space for the head. Cut off any excess floss as you go. Return the thread to the post and make three turns of thread directly behind the post (on the hook bend side) to make the post stand upright. All the turns of thread must be tight and touching the previous turn. This completes the tying in of the post. This process is repeated in a few different ways throughout all the patterns in this book.



4. Pull the floss post over the hook eye to place it out of the way. Continue the thread down to the hook bend. When using GSP for the post it can easily be manoeuvred out of the way whilst tying the rear of the fly. Some materials are not so friendly and may need to be looped around the front of the hook to keep them out of the way. Note the flatness of the thread in the photograph.



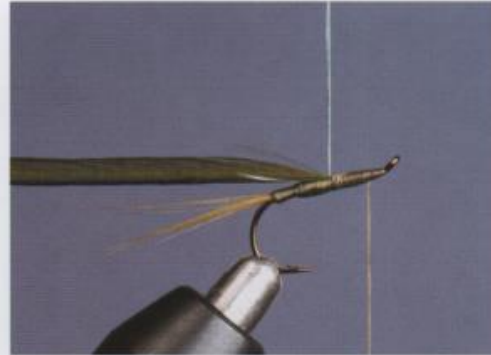
5. Take a small bunch of olive hackle fibres and using the loose loop/pinch-and-loop method (4/5), tie in with three turns on top of the hook shank. The length of the tail should be equal to the length of the hook (hook length = from end of eye to end of bend). Hackle fibres are removed from the feather by first selecting the fibres required; length and springiness are the main factors to take into consideration. See chapter 2, section 3, for the best way to remove fibres from the feather and maintain the tips on a level plane.



6. Tie in the olive polypropylene floss directly where the tail has been tied in. To give complete control when tying in floss, use the method described in chapter 4, section 11. Wind the thread back to the post, tying in the loose end of the floss body material under the hook shank as you do so. There should not be any excess floss, but if there is, cut it off before reaching the post with the thread. The thread should be wound flat throughout this procedure.



7. Take the floss and unwind any twists in it, allowing it to be wound flat. Wind it along the hook shank to the post using touching turns. Now, using the method described in chapter 4, section 10, create a body using the floss. When the body is completed, tie off the floss under the hook shank at the post and cut off any excess. Then return the thread to the post.



8. Attach the post to the gallow's tool hook, adjusting the gallow's if necessary to ensure that tension is applied to the floss post. Prepare the dyed olive hackle by removing all the soft fibres at the base of the feather, leaving only the springy fibres. Where the softer fibres end and the springy ones start is often referred to as the 'sweet point'. It is at this point that the hackle should be tied in. Offer the hackle to the hook at the base of the post and tie in as per the photograph. Please note that the good side of the hackle should mainly be facing you when tying in.



9. Cut off the excess hackle and return the thread to the post. Now comes an interesting bit. Take the hackle attached at the base of the post and wind it up the post for a distance equal to that from the post to the hook eye. The turns need not be touching and they can be fairly well separated. If you wish, use hackle pliers. Personally I do not, preferring the control given by using the thumb and first finger of both hands to wind the hackle.



10. Now wind the hackle back down the post over the top of the previous hackle turns, going all the way down to the hook shank. Then, maintaining tension on the hackle, pull the post in the direction of the hook bend. This will give space to tie the hackle in onto the hook shank, using two or three careful turns of thread. Try not to catch any hackle fibres when doing so. If any fibres are caught, take a dubbing needle and release them. The hackle now forms a hackle brush.

Please note: the turns of hackle up and down the post should not be touching turns. If a denser hackle is required, then wind the hackle higher up the post and use the technique for compacting the hackle (4/1) after initially tying the hackle in on the hook shank.



11. Remove the post from the gallows tool and attach it to the neck breaker. Doing so will place the hackle brush clear of the thorax and allows free access to this area of the fly. Brush back any hackle-fibres which stick out over the thorax area, using the thumb and first finger of the left hand (right hand if you are left handed). Complete the tying in of the hackle by winding the thread over the hackle feather, progressing towards the hook eye. Cut off the excess hackle and return the thread to the post. Make sure that enough space is left behind the hook eye to form a small head.



12. Now we must form the thorax. Add a little additional wax to the top 2 in (5 cm) of thread and dub the thread with the olive and brown mixed polypropylene dubbing (4/7). Wind on the dubbed thread to form a thorax. The thorax should be tapered at each end and be quite a bit wider than the body at its centre. Leave enough room behind the hook eye to form a head. The addition of a little brown dubbing to the olive is to imitate the slightly darker thorax of the Olive Dun when compared with the body.



13. Now it is time for another interesting bit. Remove the post from the neck breaker and take the hackle brush over the top of the thorax. This is a similar procedure to tying in a wing case on a nymph pattern. Ideally the hackle brush should end just at the head position. If the hackle brush is too long, then apply compact the hackle (4/1). Then tie in the floss post, immediately above the hackle brush at the head position, using three turns of thread.



14. Cut off the excess post and complete a small head. Complete the fly with a whip finish, either using a tool or by hand. Make sure that each turn of the whip finish progresses towards the hook eye; doing so will ensure that the whipping will lock the

thread. Cut off the thread. Taking a dubbing brush or needle, tease out a few fibres of dubbing on the lower part of the thorax to imitate the legs of the fly. That completes the basic Paraloop, the Olive Dun.

4 Techniques Used When Tying Paraloop Flies

It might appear at first that this chapter would be better placed before the previous one. However, as some of the techniques described here require a basic knowledge of the Paraloop Method, it is, I believe, better for it to follow it.

As I explained in the introduction, this book has been designed not only for experienced tyers but also for those who are less experienced. Many of the techniques explained here will be familiar to the more experienced fly tyer, but some of them may not be. In order not to repeat the explanation of each technique when describing the tying of each of the flies, this chapter will cover each one in detail.

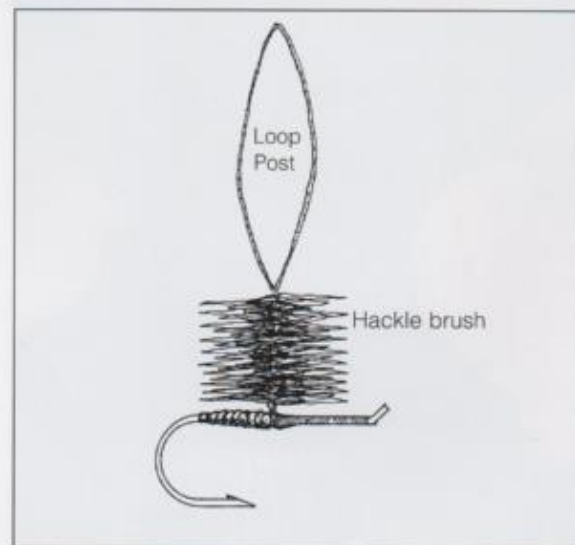
Even experienced tyers can often learn from the methods employed by others. Some of the best and most useful techniques of fly tying that I use have been explained and demonstrated to me by other tyers and I am most grateful to them for doing so. Similarly, I hope that a number of the following techniques will prove useful to the more experienced readers. I am confident that some of them will.

The first techniques explained are those that are directly applicable to the tying of Paraloop flies, having been developed from the tying of these flies. It is essential to use these techniques when indicated. They often make the difference between a fly that fishes poorly and one that does exactly what you want it to.

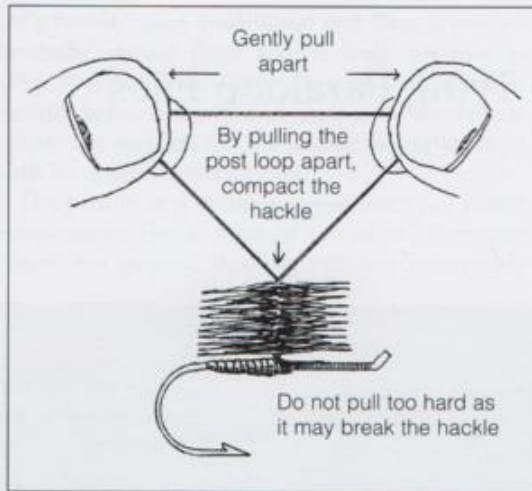
1. Compacting the Hackle

As I have explained, the hackle on a Paraloop fly is wound up a post fixed to the fly and then returns back down again to be tied in on the hook shank. This forms the hackle brush. The length of this hackle brush will depend on the

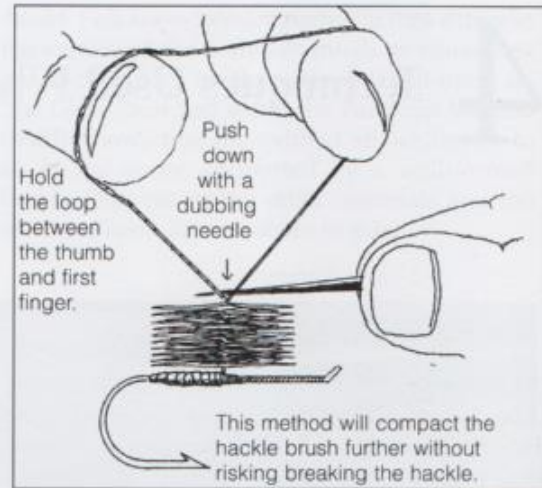
distance between the hook eye and the hackle post, as well as the type of Paraloop fly being tied. The technique of 'compacting the hackle' is extremely useful in more ways than one. It allows any hackle which is wound too far up the post to be reduced in length without having to untie the hackle brush. If a denser hackle brush is required, perhaps to allow a fly to float better, then compacting will also achieve this. If you are tying standard, basic Paraloop flies, when winding the hackle it is unnecessary to have each turn close to its predecessor, because compacting will achieve this after the hackle brush is completed. When tying Paraloop flies regularly, this technique will prove invaluable. It is very easy to use and the only word of caution is not to overstress the hackle brush when performing it.



1. Remove the hackle brush loop from the gallows tool; it is important that there is no twist from the top of the loop and the top of the hackle brush.



2. Hold one side of the loop between the thumb and first finger of your left hand. Hold the other side of the loop with the thumb and forefinger of your right hand. Gently pull your hands apart. This will open up the loop above the hackle brush and force the brush downwards. Using the two sides of the loop, carefully ease the hackle brush down. Do not pull the loop too hard as this will break the top of the hackle brush and render it useless.



4. If you need to reduce the length of the hackle brush further, either to fit the fly or to make it denser, *do not* just pull the loops harder. Place the thumb and forefinger on either side of the loop as in the photograph. Place a dubbing needle into the 'V' formed at the top of the hackle brush and gently push downwards with the dubbing needle, whilst maintaining pressure from the loop. This will maximise the compacting.



3. The position of the fingers after compaction of the hackle brush.

It is not always necessary to remove the post from the gallows tool when compacting the hackle; it is often easier with the post attached to the gallows tool. Leaving the post attached is sometimes necessary when using a dubbing needle to complete the procedure.

2. Doubling the Hackle Paraloop-Style

Most experienced tyers will be aware of how to double a hackle. However, I come across very few tyers who regularly double hackles for any fly. This is unfortunate as it gives a far better look to a fly when done correctly than when it is not done. I would go as far as to say that the difference between an average, run-of-the-mill fly and one that is exceptional is the doubled hackle. Not all hackles should be doubled, but when they can and should, it makes all the difference.

Doubling the hackle Paraloop-style is very useful in most tyings, but it must be used with caution and care. Overuse of the technique will ruin what would otherwise have been a well-

tied fly. It should be used much more sparingly than compressing the hackle. The word is 'little and often'. It is better not to double at all than to over-double.

The purpose of the technique is to reset the hackle fibres so that they are not crushed against the thorax when the loop is pulled into place. It will give you control over how the hackle will

look and act on the water. Overuse will produce a fly with a hackle that resembles a Mohican hairstyle. There are some Paraloop techniques which do not require any doubling of the hackle brush, such as open loops (see below), where doubling the hackle brush will actually spoil the overall look and effectiveness of the fly.

When tying spent winged flies Paraloop-style,

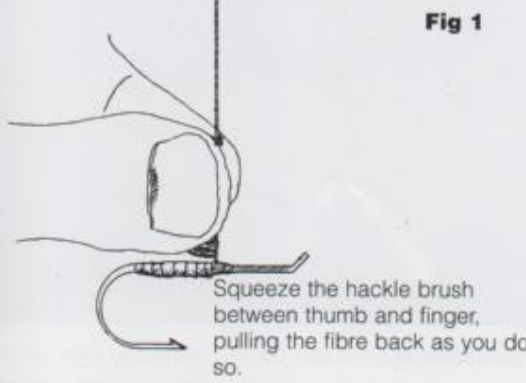


Fig 1

Squeeze the hackle brush between thumb and finger, pulling the fibre back as you do so.

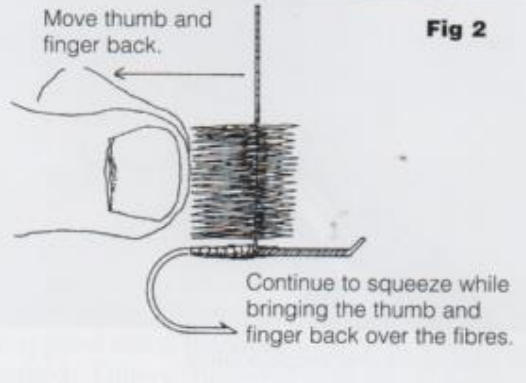


Fig 2

Move thumb and finger back.

Continue to squeeze while bringing the thumb and finger back over the fibres.

Fig. 1 and 2. Having completed the fly up to the point just prior to pulling the hackle brush over the thorax, take the hackle brush between the thumb and forefinger and gently pull it back over the fly, using a gentle brushing motion. This will move the hackle fibres from the hook eye end of the hackle

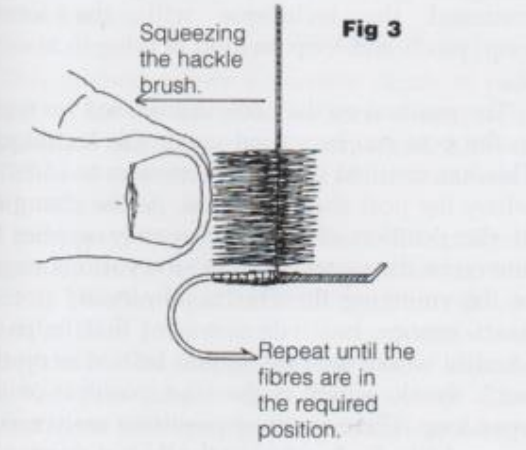



Fig 3

Squeezing the hackle brush.

Repeat until the fibres are in the required position.

Fig 4

The result of doubling the hackle brush is the resetting of the hackle fibres so that they are moved from the front of the hackle brush and moved towards its rear



Resetting the fibres reduces the number of fibres caught between the hackle brush post and the hook shank, when the hackle brush is pulled over into position.

Fig. 3 and 4. The ideal result is as in the diagram. The hackle fibres on the hook eye side of the hackle brush have been repositioned, the fibres forming a 'V' shape ready to be pulled over the thorax. When set in place over the thorax there should be no fibres trapped between the hackle brush and the thorax. This maximises the useful hackle fibres.