



Bert's Better Brush

A MORE BUOYANT BRUSH

Why?

- ▶ Fishing a shaving brush in faster runs found the fly being pulled under and sinking
- ▶ How to make it more buoyant?
 - ▶ CDC?
 - ▶ More deer hair?

How?

- ▶ The shaving brush only uses a small amount of the hollow base of the deer hair
 - ▶ Doubling the base over gives a second bunch on the base
 - ▶ Could use brown thread instead of dubbing due to the bigger bulk
 - ▶ Otherwise could tie it backwards
 - ▶ Shuttlecock does use CDC

Materials

- ▶ 10-14 hook, turned down (helps pull the head up)
- ▶ Black or brown thread
- ▶ Fine copper wire (ribbing)
- ▶ A black hackle feather (tail fibres)
- ▶ Natural deer hair (wing/thorax)
- ▶ Dark and lighter brown dubbing (& dubbing wax)



Proportions

- ▶ Tail on the bend
- ▶ $\frac{1}{2}$ to the wing
- ▶ About 1mm to thread (allow some short or tapered dubbing space to fold the wing over)
- ▶ 1-2mm for head behind the eye



Wind on the thread



Optional ball on the bend to push
apart the tail



Bind in tail, then wire



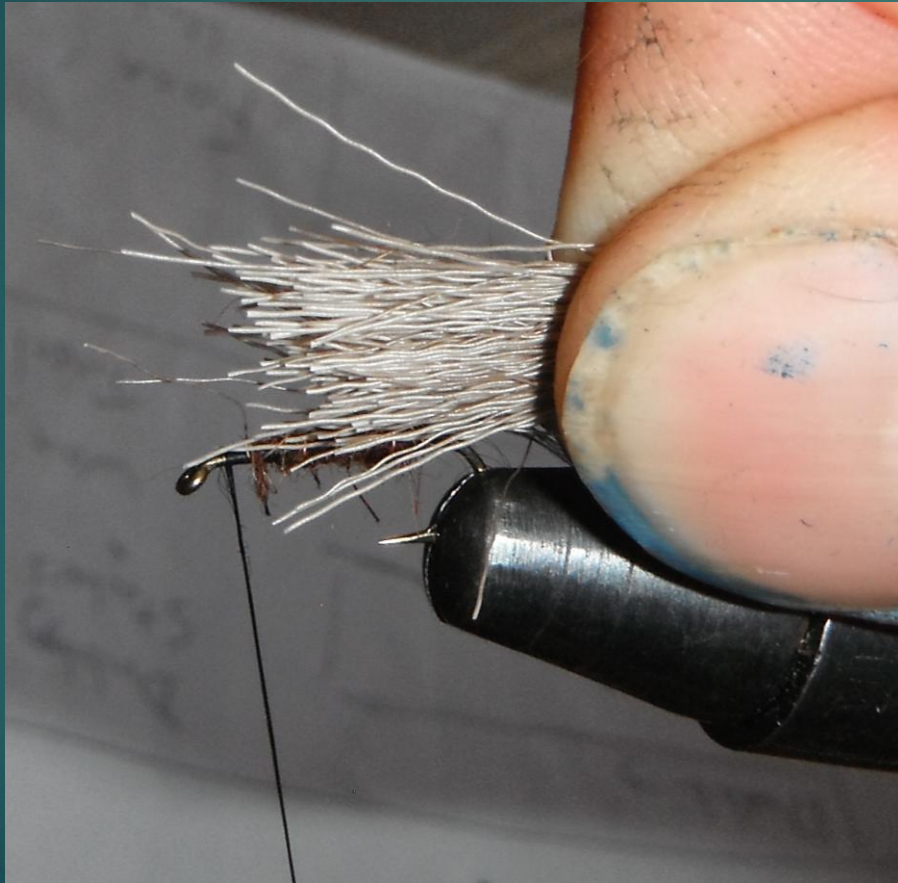
Double tapered dub with dark
dubbing halfway along shank



Wind up wire and bind, the move
thread about 1mm forward



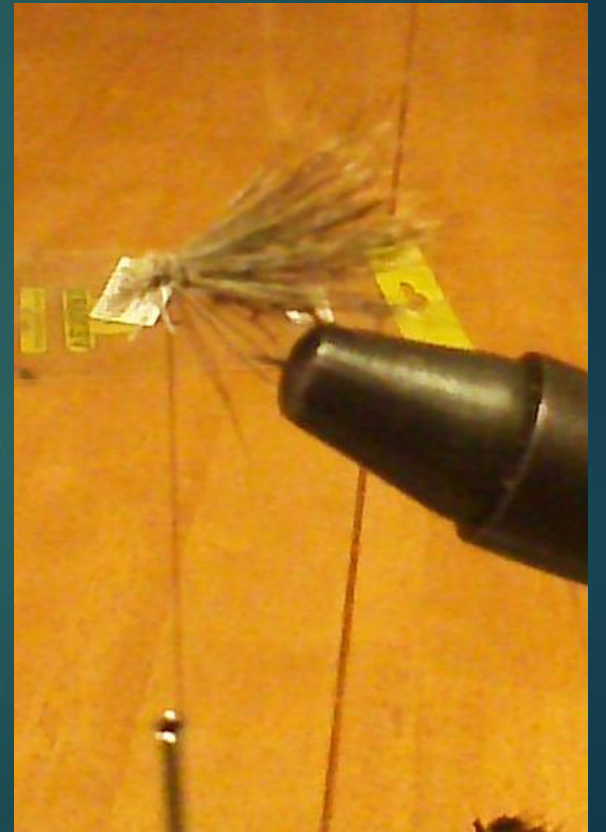
Cut a good bunch of deer hair,
clean it out, and stack



Hold base in fingers, position tips between bend and tail tips, pass a few loose turns around it, moving forward, and bind tight, keeping hold of the base



Trim the hair base near the head (taper), and trim it back (take thread with finger to the vise stand)



Take thread back halfway along the hair base, pull the wing forward (tighter will give a smaller height), a couple of loose turns the tight bind



Thinly dub, dub behind the wing,
then the head. Careful to keep
wing about 45° and even dubbing
on the far side



Whip, glue head, and trim

