

Troutsmen Drake



Recipe

Hook:	Tiemco #531 TMC	Size: 10-14
Thread:	Wine, 8/0 Danville	
Body & Tail:	Moose Body Hair	
Wing:	White Deer Body Hair or Calf Body Hair, tied post.	
Hackle:	Grizzly, dyed dark brown, two sizes larger than the hook.	

Tying Tips: Set the wing first and then the body. Clean and stack the moose body hair then cut the hair at a 45 degree angle with the longest hairs or the long part of the angle on the bottom. Work the hair around the hook. Butt the short part of the angle up against the wing. Now make two good wraps around the base before working toward the back. When you get to the bend of the hook it gets a little tricky. You have to hold the hair in one hand and make two wraps back towards the tail. On the second wrap you need to do two tight wraps to flare the hair and to secure the thread onto the hair. Now move back forward completing the figure eights wraps. If you did it correct the tail will be sitting up off the water the way a natural does. You may have to give it a little bend to get it into shape. After a few you will figure out the thread tension that makes the hair stand up without you having to help it. I then give the body a coat of head cement. It makes the fly more buoyant. I finish the fly with a hackle that is two sizes bigger than the hook. The final step is to cut the middle hairs out of the bunch left at the tail. Separate two hairs off to the side and then cut all the other away. This gives the tails a nice flared appearance.

Fishing Tips: I generally fish this fly pre Hex. I would fish this fly for a couple hours before the hex spinner would show up and on many nights my biggest fish came to this fly. I got a solid 25 pounder on this fly one night a full hour before dark and it was the biggest fish of the night and one of nearly two dozen. As a side note --- I never saw a drake that evening. I have fished this fly from Canada to Chile and it has never let me down. It is still my 'go to pattern' after some thirty years. If there is a drake of any type that hatches in the river system I will use it as an attractor and searching pattern.

Historical Note: I came up with this fly circa 1979. I was trying to imitate a different fly that had an extended body. I did not like adding the tails so I came up with a way to incorporate the body and tails as one. Of all my dry fly patterns this is my all time favorite and should be in every Michigan angler's fly box.

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