

# BALTZ'S ParaNymph

## By Tom Baltz

### Fly Recipe:

Hook: Daiichi model 1180, sizes 12, 14. Orvis Big Eye (Daiichi model 1100) in sizes 16-20.

Thread: Danville's 6/0 pre-waxed, Lt. Olive.

Post: Fluorescent Orange or Lemon Yellow calf body hair.

Hackle: Grizzly, wound parachute style. Right hand tiers should turn the hackle counter-clockwise around the post for easier tie off of hackle in front of post.

Tail: Olive Brown Z-Lon, 2/3 body length. Use 2/3 width of strand on sz. 12-14, 1/2 width of strand on sz. 16-18, 1/3 width of strand on sz. 20.

Body: Hare's Mask dubbing with guard hairs.



### Tying Procedure:

1. Attach thread behind hook eye and cover hook shank.
2. Bring thread forward on hook shank to a point 1/3 of the way back from hook eye to bend.
3. Stack and tie in calf body hair for post and stand upright with 2 turns of thread around base of post, followed by 2 turns of thread around hook shank (behind post) to lock in place. Post should be length of hook shank.
4. Bring thread to just in front of post and tie in hackle so that underside of hackle is up.
5. Stand hackle feather up with post (concave or underside of hackle should be against post) and tie to post by making 12 ascending turns (on sz. 14, fewer on small sizes) around the post and hackle feather.
6. Spiral 2-3 turns back down post and 2-3 turns around hook shank and to the rear.
7. Tie in tail material with turns towards the rear of hook shank.
8. Dub Hare's Mask onto thread and wind body and thorax part of fly. Dubbing should have lots of guard hairs and a rough look to suggest nymph legs and gills.
9. Wind hackle around post, parachute style and concave side up, in descending turns, 6-7 turns on sz. 14, at least 5 turns on smaller sizes. Tie off hackle on shank in front of post. This will be easy if right handed tiers wind the hackle counter clockwise.
10. Dub small amount of Hare's Mask onto thread and finish off front part of body of fly.
11. Whip finish thread and trim off.

**Notes:**

This is my #1 first choice dry fly for guide trips and personal fishing. Sort of a “floating nymph/emergent design. I have been successful with it during all types of mayfly hatches and it is a great “searching” type fly, too. My custom fly clients have been successful with this fly in Europe, all over the U.S., Argentina, Chile, and New Zealand on both streams and still waters.

I tie this fly for noted author and angler Harry Murray for his fly shop in VA and quote from his catalog copy: “It takes a lot to excite me in a new fly pattern but I’m convinced this is one of the finest flies I’ve used when there is not a heavy hatch of a specific insect. I’ve done extremely well with this as a searching pattern and believe the trout take it because in “their window” it passes for all three insects – mayflies, stoneflies, and caddis flies. It floats like a cork and is highly visible.” Every one I know who has used it agrees. Lori-Ann Murphy of Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures in Idaho would be another reference. I also tie it for Penns Creek Angler in Pennsylvania and Phil Camera’s Prewett Creek Inn and Outfitters on the Missouri River in Montana. It is my best seller and I get repeat orders consistently for this fly.

I have promoted the ParaNymph for years at all of the major fly fishing shows and in print. An article in the Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide, coverage in the Feb. 2003 issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine, and a full page in the recently published book “Guide Flies” by David Klausmeyer, editor of Fly Tyer Magazine, are some examples.

The ParaNymph is most effective when a gel type fly floatant is applied to just the hackle and it is otherwise fished like a dry fly. It may also be utilized effectively as the top or indicator fly in a dry fly/nymph dropper arrangement.