

Renegade and Bivisible – A Study in Brown and White

Renegade



The Renegade started out as wet fly, in Idaho, back in the 1920's. The dry version quickly became more popular, and soon became a standard pattern, especially in the west. It isn't as popular as it used to be, but it still catches a lot of fish. The fly scales well. Sea-run cutthroat fishers in the Pacific still tie it large (size 8 or so) and swing it as a wet fly; in sizes 16-20 it makes a good midge cluster fly, especially if you find Griffith's Gnats hard to see. It makes a passable ant pattern, and I have good success with when there are dark caddis flies hovering about.

Hook: Dry fly hook sizes 8-20
Thread: White, 8/0
Rear Hackle: Brown*
Body: Peacock herl
Front Hackle: White

* A large, stiff rear hackle can sometimes make it difficult to hook a fish with a fore and aft fly. Some tyers prefer to use a smaller hackle in the rear than in the front.

Bivisible



Popularized by Edward Ringwood Hewitt in the early 20th century, the Bivisible is a wonderful fly to use as strike indicator, as well as being an effective attractor pattern in its own right. Originally tied with the brown hackle tips, it's now more common to it with hackle fibers in the tail.

Hook: Dry fly sizes 12-18
Thread: White 8/0
Tail: Hackle fibers, or hackle tips if using two brown hackles
Rear Hackle: Brown. Use 1 or 2, depending on hackle length. Should be about 2/3 of body
Front Hackle: White. If emulating the Catskill style, leave some room in front of the hackle