

## **CDC & Elk Caddis**

The CDC and Elk Caddis was developed by Dutch tier Hans Weilanmann to imitate the fuzzy, buggy silhouette of many emerging caddis. I have refined his original pattern slightly by adding an underbody of dubbing to make it easier to tie, since his pattern relied on a certain type of CDC to create the body, a type of CDC that is difficult to find in the bulk packages of CDC widely available. The pattern works as an excellent go-to imitation of most caddis species found in the Rockies.

### How to Fish

The CDC and Elk can be fished like any other dry caddis: on a dead drift, twitched, or skated across the surface. Because the CDC traps air bubbles and scatters light, the pattern also works well when fished on the swing to imitate an emerging caddis pupa. Since its hair wing is highly visible and the CDC and hair both help the fly float well, the CDC and Elk also makes an excellent rough water attractor fly, even when no caddis are present.

### Tying Challenges

While my version is slightly easier to tie than the original, finding the right CDC feathers and wrapping them without breaking them remains frustrating. Select CDC feathers with long, thin stems, rather than short, puffy feathers, and practice wrapping several feathers before attempting to tie any flies, to learn how much pressure the feathers can handle without breaking.

### *Nectopsyche* CDC and Elk Pattern

Hook: standard dry fly, #14

Thread: 6/0 olive-dun

Underbody: creamy pale yellow-olive dubbing, dubbed very tight and thin

Overbody/Hackle: white CDC feather palmer-wrapped in a tight spiral and trimmed even with the hook gape

Wing: bleached elk hair tied Elk Hair Caddis-style

Tying Note: tie in whatever color combinations you desire. The version given here works great on the Firehole River in June and September.

