

PMD Parachute Emerger

This fly, produced wholesale by Dan Bailey's Fly Shop's import arm, combines two popular dry fly styles, Craig Matthews' sparkle dun and the parachute. It features the trailing nymphal shuck of the former and the visibility of the latter. Since it is tied on a scud hook, much of the fly rests below the surface, further suggesting an emerging mayfly. I have found this pattern to be very effective during Pale Morning Dun hatches on all Yellowstone Park rivers, and there's no reason it should not be effective elsewhere, as well.

How to Fish

Since this is a hatch-matching mayfly dry, it should be fished on a dead drift when fish are eating Pale Morning Duns. To keep the bulk of the fly resting below the surface, apply floatant only to the hackle and wingpost.

Tying Challenges

The PMD Parachute Emerger is a straightforward tie once you know how to tie parachute wingposts. For mayflies I like to bind the post material directly to the shank, facing forward, and trim the wing butts at a sharp angle to help create the body taper. I then take several turns around the post itself to bring it vertical and create a solid base for the hackle, which I secure directly to the post. Since the fly is small, the hackle can be secured at the eye rather than to the hackle post after wrapping it, which simplifies the fly considerably by allowing you to dub the entire body before wrapping the hackle.

PMD Parachute Emerger Pattern

Hook: #14-20 scud hook.

Thread: 8/0 cahill cream.

Tail/shuck: brown Hi-Viz or other crinkly synthetic.

Body: pale yellow dubbing.

Wingpost: white Float-Viz or other crinkly synthetic.

Hackle: light dun tied parachute-style.

Tying Note: this style of fly is effective for any mayfly species that emerges at the surface, including the Blue-winged Olive. It is not a match for insects like Green Drakes, which emerge at the streambed.

