



“ARMAND’S CADDIS”

September 2009 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By John Daniels

MATERIALS

HOOK: TMC 100BL # 18—26

THREAD: 8/0 Black Thread

ABDOMEN: Black Superfine Dubbing

WING: Black Coastal Deer Hair

All too often a tier is tempted by needlessly, complicated, fancy patterns which appeal to an overactive sense of aesthetics. Every now and then, the quest for the perfect fly is interrupted by a dose of reality, often applied by another fly fisher who does quite well with a very simple pattern, thus shattering one’s preconceived notions of what makes the perfect fly. The fly I call “Armand’s Caddis” is just such a pattern. First introduced to me by Armand Carriveau during the Truckee outing, this fly is deceptively simple but has two major advantages – it is really easy to tie, and can be seen well into the evening when the light fades and all other patterns start to disappear in the shadows of the fading light. Black caddis are common on western rivers, but this patterns seems to work even when they are not around. Tied in smaller sizes and fished in the fading light, it screams out “eat me” to unsuspecting trout.

Tying Instructions



Photo 1

1. **(Photo 1)** Dress the hook with thread, and dub a VERY thin body. In smaller sizes (<#20) you can omit the dubbing and just use thread for the abdomen. Dub the body to about an hook eye width from the eye of the hook.

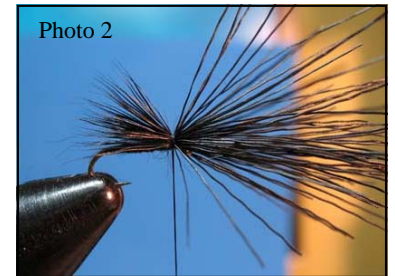


Photo 2

2. **(Photo 2)** Select, clean, and stack a gape width of black coastal deer hair, size it to the length of the hook, and tie it in at the thorax with three tightening wraps. I like to let the hair distribute 180 degrees around the hook shank to help with the buoyancy, but Armand would typically keep the hair on the top of the hook.



Photo 3

3. **(Photo 3)** Lift about one third of the hair butts up and run a tight wrap of thread in front. Repeat this step with another third, and then lift the remainder and add a few more wraps before whip finishing at the eye. Be sure your do not crowd the head. When you are tying flies this small, you will never be able to get tippet through the eye, unless you leave it clear of materials.

4. **(Photo 4)** Lift the butts perpendicular to the hook, and come in with the scissors over the eye at a 45 degree angle and trim the butts as you would an Elk Hair Caddis in order to form the head.



Photo 4

You’re done!

“Armand’s Caddis”