



# “QUIGLEY CRIPPLE”

November 2007 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed  
By Robert Rountree

## MATERIALS

**HOOK:** Standard Dry Fly, Size #14-18

**THREAD:** Gray 6/0 or 8/0

**TAIL:** Pheasant Tail

**RIB:** Fine Gold Wire

**ABDOMEN:** Pheasant Tail

**THORAX:** Pale Yellow Dubbing

**WINGS:** Deer Hair.

**HACKLE:** Dun Dry Fly

The Quigley Cripple is an emerger pattern originally developed by Bob Quigley. It's a very effective pattern for trout that can be tied in a myriad of different variations by altering the colors and materials of the various components. The recipe here imitates an emerging Pale Morning Dun. I used a couple of excellent fly-tying references in researching this pattern, and included *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying* by Ted Leeson & Jim Schollmeyer and *Tying Emergers* by the same authors. I also looked at a DVD in CFFU's Library, *Tying Bob Quigley's Signature Flies*.

## Tying Instructions

1. (Photo 1) Mount hook in vice. Select 3-6 pheasant tail barbs (Bob Quigley prefers x3), and measure tips for tail length approximately 1 hook-gap in length. Tie in at barb position using standard pinch technique. Fold the remaining length of barbs backwards. Next, tie in gold wire ribbing and leave thread about mid-point of shank.

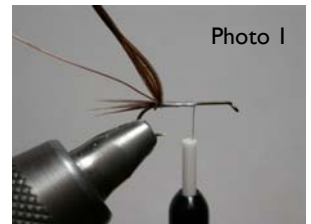


Photo 1



Photo 2

2. (Photo 2) If you want your fly to last longer, put a little head cement on the shank before wrapping the remaining pheasant tail barbs forward to the midpoint of the hook shank, and tie off. Now counter-rib the abdomen with the gold wire and tie off.

3. (Photo 3) Dub a definite ball to imitate the bursting thorax of the fly about halfway to the hook eye.



Photo 3

4. (Photo 4) Clean and stack a bundle of deer hair. The bundle should be sparse, and approximate 1/3 the hook-gap in thickness. Bob Quigley had a preference for dark tipped deer hair. Wing length should be as long as the hook shank. Mount the bundle in front of the thorax, and lay a smooth thread foundation to wrap dry fly hackle in the next step. This step is the most troublesome for beginning tiers as the deer hair either wants to spin completely around the hook shank or slide off to one side, if not tied down appropriately. Suggest using a soft loop wrap technique, and after your loose wraps try pulling the thread up instead of down while pinching the deer hair between your fingers. It's also helpful to slide your index finger on the far side of the fly forward a little to keep the bundle from rolling.



Photo 4

It's always a good technique with stuff that wants to spin on the shank to, “pull up to pull down”. Don't know if that makes sense, but it works. Sometimes it helps to take a wrap or two between the butts as you might on an Elk Hair Caddis.

5. (Photo 5) Clip deer hair wings butts even with the back of the thorax. Mount dry fly hackle directly in front of the thorax, and you want the dull or concave side facing upward. You'll need to move the thread forward (not shown in this picture) in front of the wing.



Photo 5



Photo 6

6. (Photo 6) Take only 2-3 wraps of hackle, and leave the last wrap directly behind the wing tuft. Then use your left fingers to pull the wing tuft backwards while you take one more wrap of hackle in front of the wing. Tie off the hackle

7. (Photo 7) Whip finish the head, apply head cement, and preen the wing tuft forward. Whew! You're done.



“Quigley Cripple”