



# “REVERSE HACKLING TECHNIQUE”

April 2007 Fly of the Month

By  
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**This month** rather than demonstrate a specific fly, I would like to describe a technique.

I was shown this technique by Hans Weilenmann of The Netherlands. Hans is a software engineer, photographer and fly tyer extraordinaire. He lives in Amstelveen and has a beautifully done website that has terrific close-up photos and recipes of over 2000 flies. See his website at:

<http://www.danica.com/flytier/>

The technique I will be discussing is “Reverse Hackling”. It has several advantages over the traditional hackling method and can be used for dry, wet or winged flies. I will discuss the advantages after the photo sequence.

## Technique Instructions

**Photo 1**  
Reverse Hackling



**Photo 1.** After the thread is attached to the hook, the appropriate hackle for the fly you are tying is attached just behind the eye facing forward, shiny side (the part that would have been on the outside of the chicken) up. If a ribbing is desired, it is tied in here.

**Photo 2**  
Reverse Hackling



**Photo 2.** The thread is then taken to the bend of the hook, and a tail (if the pattern calls for one) is attached and a body tied forward to the location where the rear of the hackle will be.

**Photo 3**  
Reverse Hackling



**Photo 3.** The hackle is then wound in a reverse manner (hence the name of the technique) from the eye to the thread location.

**Photo 4**  
Reverse Hackling



**Photo 4.** The thread is then wound through the hackle and a head formed and whip finished.

The advantages are (1) The hackle is strengthened and reinforced by the thread being wound through it. (2) There is no problem with “running out of room for the head” since very few wraps can be used and very small heads attained.

As I mentioned, this technique can be used for dries, wets (by placing the hackle right against the eye) and winged flies (the wings can be added just after the hackle).

Notes: This is just another valuable technique that can be added to your tying repertoire!