



California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU), Sacramento, CA

“CDC SHUTTLECOCK”

September 2011 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By *John Daniels*

MATERIALS

HOOK: TMC 2487 #14

THREAD: Danville 6/0 Brown.

WING: 3 CDC Feathers Natural Dun

ABDOMEN: Nature's Spirit Dubbing
#26 Calibaetis.

With the price of dry fly hackle these days, tiers are going to have to get more creative when it comes to tying dries and emergers. Fortunately, CDC offers an excellent alternative, and is especially useful in flat water situations such as spring creeks and still waters. The CDC Shuttlecock, created by British "flydresser" Clive Perkins is a great example how a little innovation can open up a vast array of possibilities. Traditionally tied on a straight shank hook, a curve shanked hook is used here. For more on CDC patterns, consult Ian Moutter's [Tying Flies with CDC](#).

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Photo 1

(PHOTO 1) Lay a thread base two eye widths from the eye. Select 2-4 long thin CDC feathers, stack them concave side facing one another, size them for the length of the hook, then tie down reversed over the eye..



Photo 2

(PHOTO 2) Wrap a thread base to the bend of the hook, and dub tightly. Thinly dubbed flies are typically more effective than over-dressed ones. Build a slight thorax right behind the wing.



Photo 3

(PHOTO 3) Lift the wing up, build a thread dam in front of the wing before whip finishing and cutting off your thread. CDC cannot be treated with conventional floatants, so have a chamois and silica floatant (e.g. Shimakatsu, Frog's Fanny) handy when you need to revive a soggy fly.

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(Postscript) Researching this pattern reminding me that there is an advantage to tying small flies on large hook. Consider the following photo. The wing is tied the same, but a small zebra midge (black thread body, silver rib, dubbed thorax) is tied on the bottom of the shank. The result is a size #18-20 midge emerger pattern with the bite of a #14 hook. Handy when the lunkers are sipping midges just below the film.



Photo 4