

## Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

### Mercury Cased Caddis

I love watching other tyers in action. I almost always pick up something new – either a new pattern or a new technique or a new material. That's the beauty of fly fishing. There's always something to learn. Watching Dan Ehlman tie his Cased Caddis at the December meeting, I learned a new super-simple technique for reinforcing fly bodies with material we normally discard. I also learned a cool new caddis fly pattern.



Hook: Standard nymph hook size #16

Thread: 8/0 Brown

Bead: Small Silver-Lined Chrystal or clear Glass Bead

Body: Several fibers from a Wild Turkey Tail – preferably one you killed.

Ribbing: Tag end of thread

Collar: Fluorescent Green or Chartreuse thread

- 1) Place bead on hook and secure hook in vise. Start thread behind the bead and advance to hook bend.
- 2) Do not trim tag end of thread – you will need this later.
- 3) Tie in 5 or 6 turkey tail fibers and advance thread to behind the bead.
- 4) Wrap a slightly tapered body to just behind the bead and secure. Trim butt ends of turkey fibers.
- 5) Using the tag end of the thread, reverse rib the body to the bead and tie off. Trim excess thread tag.
- 6) Whip Finish the brown thread and trim.
- 7) Using the fluorescent thread, start and build a narrow collar between the body and the bead. Whip finish thread and trim excess.

This pattern represents a cased caddis drifting in the current, so stick with a good dead drift presentation. In order to emerge, the caddis must first ditch his case.

I fish it as a dropper under a heavier fly to get down deep, or by itself if I'm fishing shallower water. Dan also has a video on The Fly Tiers of the Long Table YouTube channel.