

Tied by Umpqua Feather Merchants

**Emergent Sparkle Pupa**

**Hook:** Tiemco 100BL or 900BL, sizes 12-20, weight to suit

**Thread:** Brown, to match abdomen

**Tail:** Strands of Antron, color to match veil

**Veil:** Strands of Antron yarn tied in at back of abdomen and pulled forward somewhat loosely around abdomen and tied off at head

**Abdomen:** Dubbing to match veil

**Wing:** Light to medium dark deer hair tied sparse and extending to bend of hook

**Head:** Brownish marabou dubbing



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Tie these in any color and size—they are amazingly effective. Try other material combinations.

## Chapter 17

## Emergent Sparkle Pupa

The late Gary LaFontaine was a leading authority on entomology, flies, and fly fishing, and the author of several innovative books. Under laboratory and field conditions, Gary concluded that the most realistic portrayal of the important pupa stage of caddisflies is best imitated with Antron yarn. Antron yarn is three sided and highly reflective, and individual fibers do not cling together. Each and every fiber retains an air space around it. Air bubbles clustered around a fly make it both an attractor and an imitator.

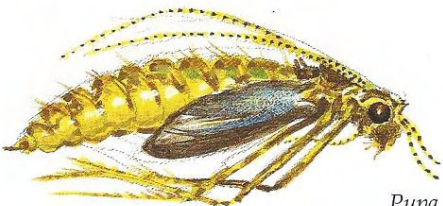
Until Gary explained otherwise with his award-winning book, *Caddisflies*, the general belief was that trout chased ascending caddis pupae and caught them mid current. From underwater observations, Gary learned that the ascent is not one rapid movement and that trout do not chase pupae. There are two moments of feeding activity on the pupa. First, when the pupa initially cuts itself free from the cocoon and drifts along the stream bottom, and, second, just subsurface where the pupa hangs on the underside of the surface film as it struggles to split and shed its pupal shuck. If you think about it, this must be one scary ride into the unknown.

In order to capitalize upon these two points of vulnerability, Gary devised the Emergent Sparkle Pupa. Twenty-five years later, it is still one of the most popular caddis emerger patterns. Anglers interested in more caddisfly insight and fishing strategy should read *Caddisflies* and Gary's other titles, including *Trout Flies: Proven Patterns*, *The Dry Fly*, *Challenge of the Trout*, and *Fly Fishing the Mountain Lakes*. Many of the Jack Dennis videos feature Gary and are highly recommended.

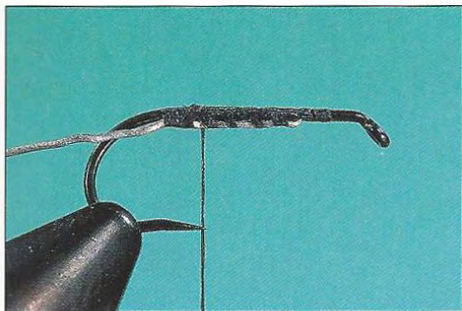
New techniques include construction of an abdomen veil and installing a deer hair downwing. Hair incorporated into tails and wings should be cleaned and "stacked," or evened up, with natural tips all being a uniform length. The specialized method described to weight this fly helps it ride right side up.



Larva



Pupa



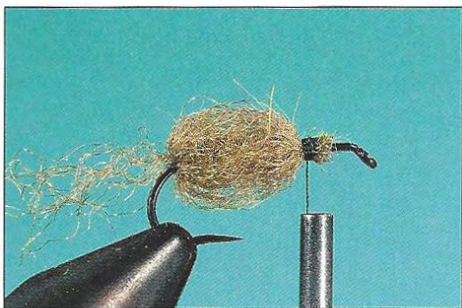
1. To tie the **Emergent Sparkle Pupa**, secure a strip of wire along the underside of the hook, positioning it about in the center of the shank. Position thread at front of wire. Wrap the wire forward, spacing it out.



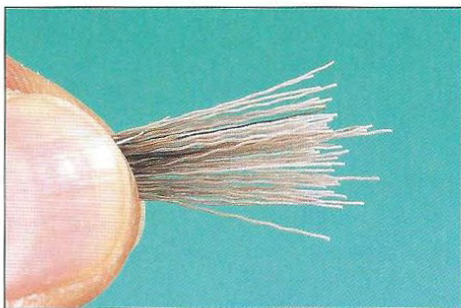
2. The understrip helps the fly ride right side up. As you wrap the wire forward, it may be necessary to hold the understrip in place. Tie in Antron fibers for tail. Stagger—cut to length of hook.



3. Secure three strands of Antron yarn around hook so that when it is pulled forward it encompasses the abdomen. Tie in behind wire, minimizing bulk and keeping underbody thin and level.



4. Dub and wrap the body. Then, pull veil loosely forward one strand at a time and tie off at thorax area. This veil is bulky and heavy; keep yours sparser.



5. Trim off a small clump of deer hair. Hold tips in left hand, pull out short fibers and underfluff. Change hands twice, turning deer hair clump around before inserting into stacker.



6. Note that deer hair tips are uneven. Drop in stacker.



7. Tap stacker a few times to tamp hair. Well-cleaned straight deer should even in a few taps. A large clump of crinkly hair, such as calf, may require 50 or more hard taps.



8. Hold the stacker in a slightly upward position and slowly pull off the end. The hair should be even.



9. Grasp it and change hands so you can place it over the abdomen with your right hand.



10. When the length is correct, hold in place over top of abdomen with your left hand. Using the up-between-the-fingers technique, secure in place at the rear of the head area.



11. Trim the excess so the eye is not impeded.



12. Dub on the head and lacquer. That is it! Finished Emergent Sparkle Pupa.