

Creating a flat profile for wet flies/nymphs

Every once in a while, you may want to create a wider profile for your flies. For a number of years, I used sewing pins attached to the side of the hook shank to create flat profile. This method of using pins came from George Grant's book, "The Art of Weaving Hair Hackles for Trout Flies". (George tied beautiful flies, especially nymphs.) Now I use a very simple method using lead/non toxic wire.



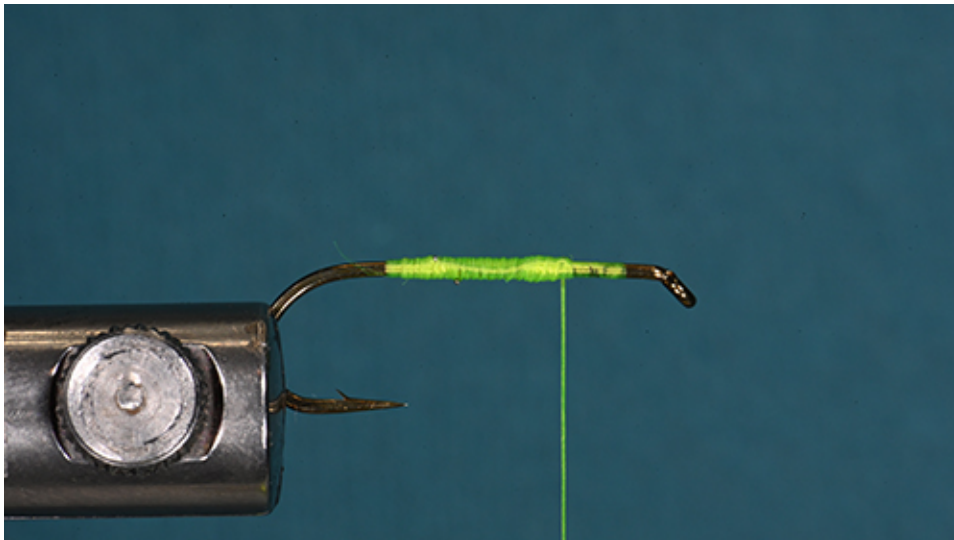
Begin with a good thread base. (size 10 2xl Daiichi 1710)



Using 0.010 inch lead wire, I fold the wire and place it on top of the hook shank using a couple of loose wraps.



At this point I ensure that the lead wire is positioned next to the hook shank and is parallel to the shank.



All that remains, is to build up the body ensuring it is reasonably smooth. Please note on this side view, there is not much difference in the in profile between the hook shank and the thread.



From a top view, you can see there is a difference profile, the width is approximately 50% larger than hook shank. If you want to have a much wider body, increase the size of you lead wire/non toxic material to 0.02 of an inch. (See an example at the end of this article.)



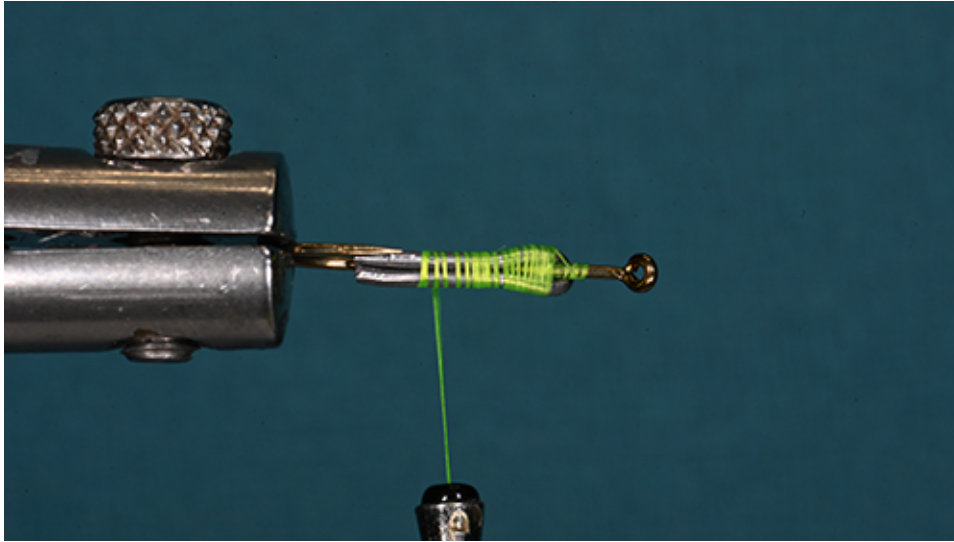
Body with 0.20 inch Lead wire



Body with 0.10 inch Lead wire

Creating a keel weighted fly

Now for a slight adaptation of this method. There are times when tying flies, I want to be absolutely sure the barb on the hook is down and the fly is tracking that way. Using the same basic method described above I create a keel weighted fly.



As in the pervious example, make sure you have a solid thread base. Now instead of put the lead wire/Non toxic material on the side, position it such that it is at the bottom of the shank.



In this side view you can see the weight material is on the bottom of the shank. You will also note that I pull the lead wire from the top of the shank. I could have easily place it on the bottom of the shank, but I prefer this method because it is easy to build a tapered profile for the body.



The size of the keel will depend upon the size of the lead/non toxic material you use. In this example I use 0.020 inch lead. When completed, there is no doubt in my mind the barb will be down and the fly will track with right profile.

As always, it is a pleasure sharing these tips with you. And, there are countless other fly tiers in our club with tips to share as well. Remember, the wisdom of one should be the knowledge of many. Send in your tips to webmaster@wscffi.org

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