

Bruce's Old Standby (Muddler Variant)

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<https://dansflyshop.net/content/bruces-old-standby-bos>



Materials:

Hook	Size 8 or 10, 2XL or 3XL, Down-eye Streamer
Thread	Tan or Yellow Flat Waxed Nylon, Kevlar or GSP
Tail	Yellow Calf Tail
Rib	Medium Flat Gold Mylar
Body	Yellow Dubbing
Throat	Red Egg Yarn
Wing	Grizzly Hen Hackle Tips
Collar	Natural Deer Body Hair Tips
Head	Natural Deer Body Hair, Trimmed

Tying Steps:

1. Crush the hook barb, set the hook in the vise, lay in the thread just above the hook point, cover 2/3 of the hook shank, and return, forming a rough, crisscrossed thread layer. Leave some bare hook shank behind the eye for spinning the deer hair head later. Clip any excess thread.
2. Tie in a sparse tail of crinkly calf tail fibers, about the length of the hook shank. Cover the hair butts all the way to the end of the thread base and return to just above the point. Trim the hair butts and add a small drop of head cement.
3. Tie in a flat gold mylar rib, extending over the tail.
4. Create a full body of yellow dubbing over the thread wraps. The dubbing loop technique works well for this and yields a durable body, especially if you're using Kevlar or GSP thread. Leave room for the throat, collar and head.
5. Counter-wrap the rib over the dubbed body, 3-4 turns. Tie off and trim.
6. Tie in and trim a sparse red egg yarn throat. Trim to size.
7. Above this, tie in two grizzly hen hackle tip wings, extending over the body at a shallow angle to the end of the tail. Trim the excess hackle butts and add head cement.
8. Above this, tie in a sparse clump of natural deer hair as a collar, extending to the end of the body. The collar should enclose the hackle tip wing. Trim the hair butts as close as possible. A drop of head cement on the thread wraps increases durability. The collar will help the fly dive when stripped, and causes the hackle tip wing to flutter slightly due to turbulence. Fish like this.
9. Spin a clump or two of natural deer hair to form the head.
10. Tie off and whip finish just behind the hook eye, or lay in a few half hitches to finish the tie. Clip the thread.
11. With scissors or a double-edged razor blade, shape the deer hair, rounded and tapered on top as shown and slightly flat on the bottom, to help the fly dive when stripped. A blunt head causes the fly to wobble a bit on the retrieve. The fish like this too.
12. Apply a drop of head cement to the final thread wraps to secure.