

Woven Mayfly



By Garren Wood

I have been weaving or braiding flies for the past nine years. I learned from a fellow named Joe Ayre, who at the time was in his mid 70's. I watched him in a flyshop one winter and was amazed at his flies. I went home and tried to do the braid and was unable to get it. I called Joe and asked if he would be willing to show me again how he braided. He was more than willing, and the first time I went over to his house and I spent hours learning his techniques. We became good friends and he taught me a lot through my college days. Joe passed away

about four years ago, and I plan on continuing his techniques and passing them onto other people.

Woven Mayfly Ingredients

Hook: 2 size 10 curved scud hooks – one clipped for extended body

Underbody: ultra chenille and wraphia

Thread: black and grey (the smaller the better)

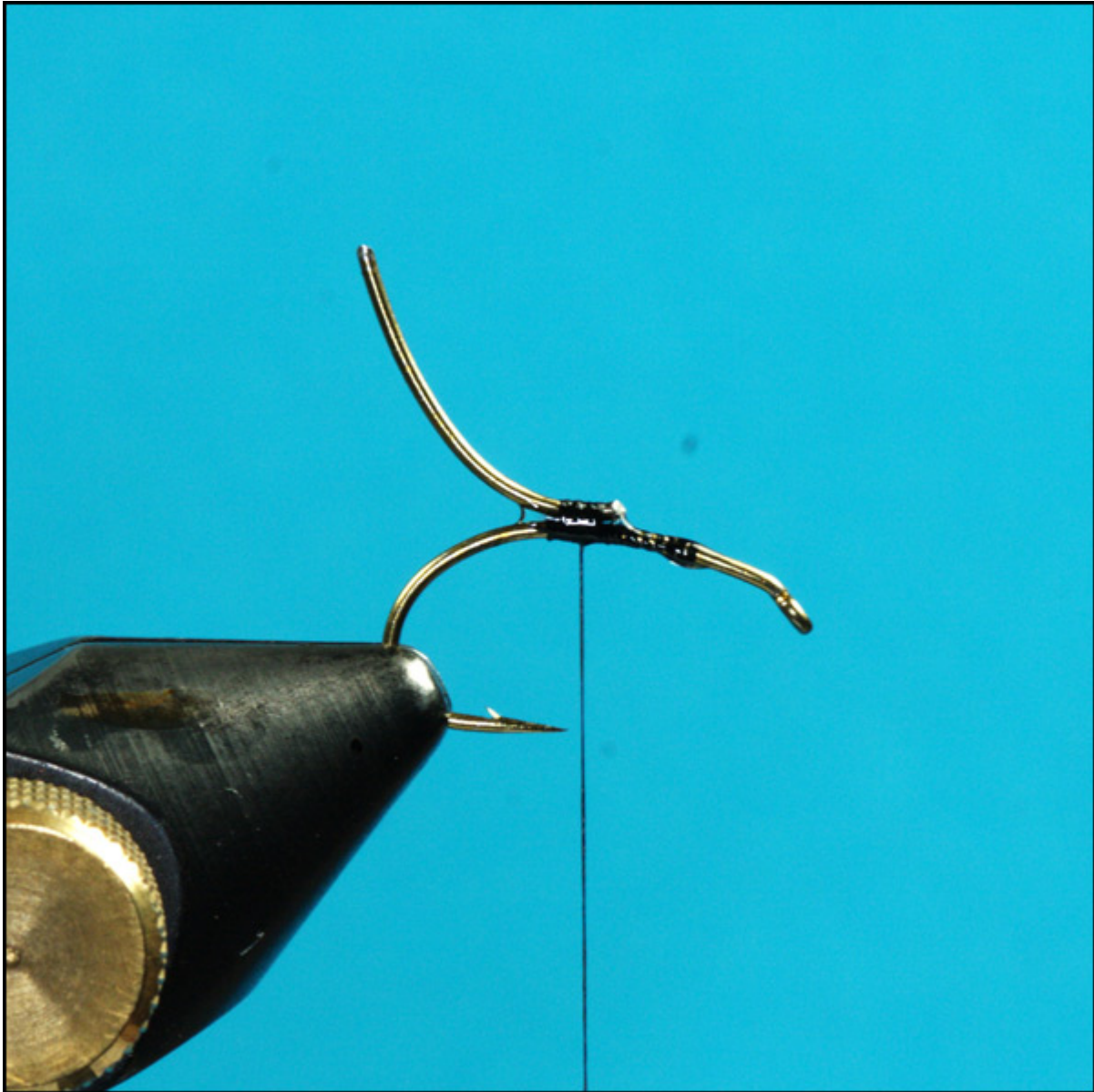
Tail: porcupine hair

Body: 4 strands of small poly yarn – 2 on top and 2 on bottom woven together

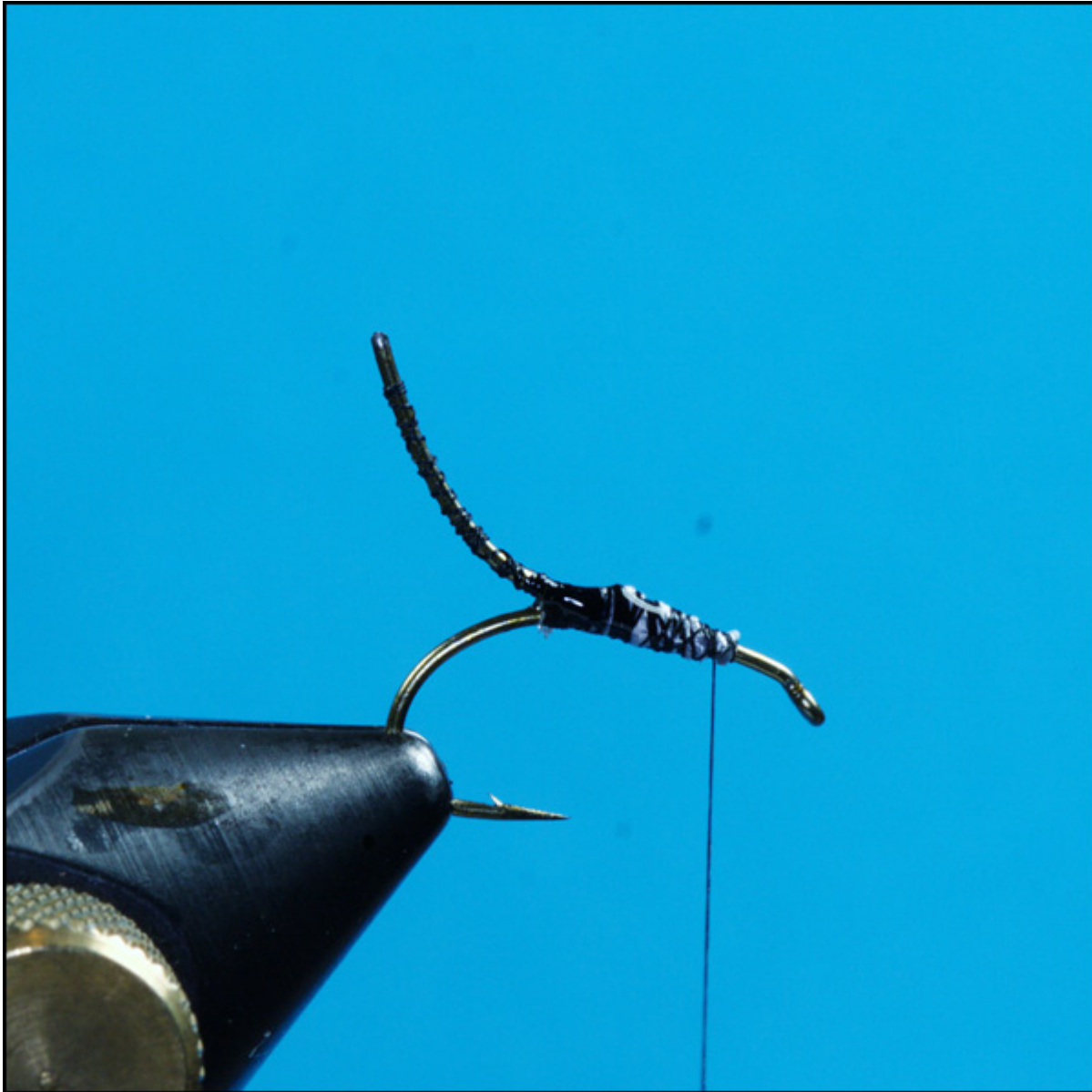
Legs: Japanese nymph legs and wraphia

Wings: Web Wing and shiny material glued

Eyes: Mono



Put one of the hooks in the vice and with the other hook clip off the hook right above the barb and above the eye of the hook. Take the side that was by the barb and tie it on the top of the hook that is in the vice. Make sure that this is tightly tied in. Take some head cement and secure the hook.



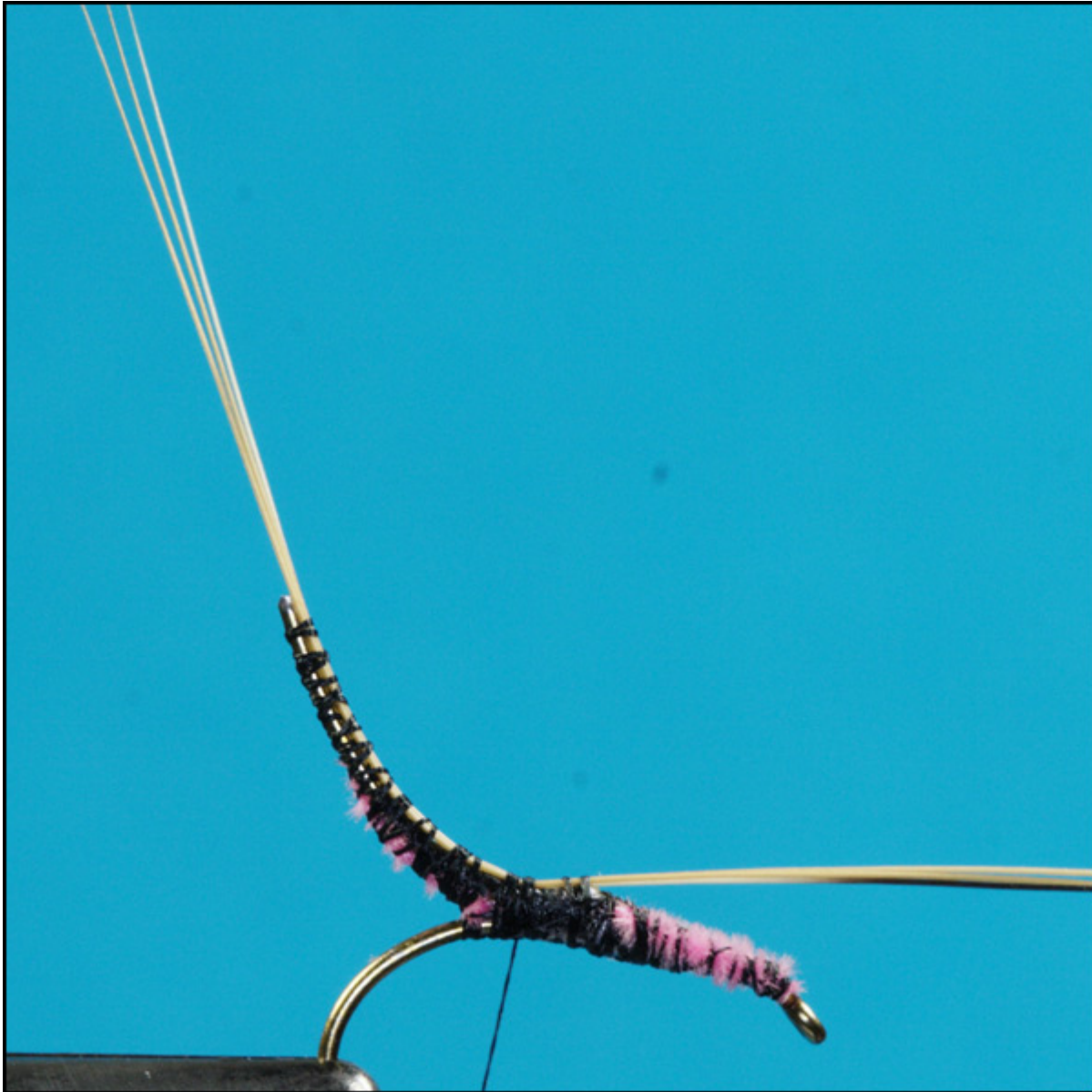
Take a thin piece of wraphia and wrap it around the end of the clipped hook. The clipped hook can be sharp and break the thread so the wraphia is used to lessen that chance and also provide a nice transition for the body. After tying in the wraphia take the thread and wrap it around the extended hook. This will give us a good base to tie material on the extended body.



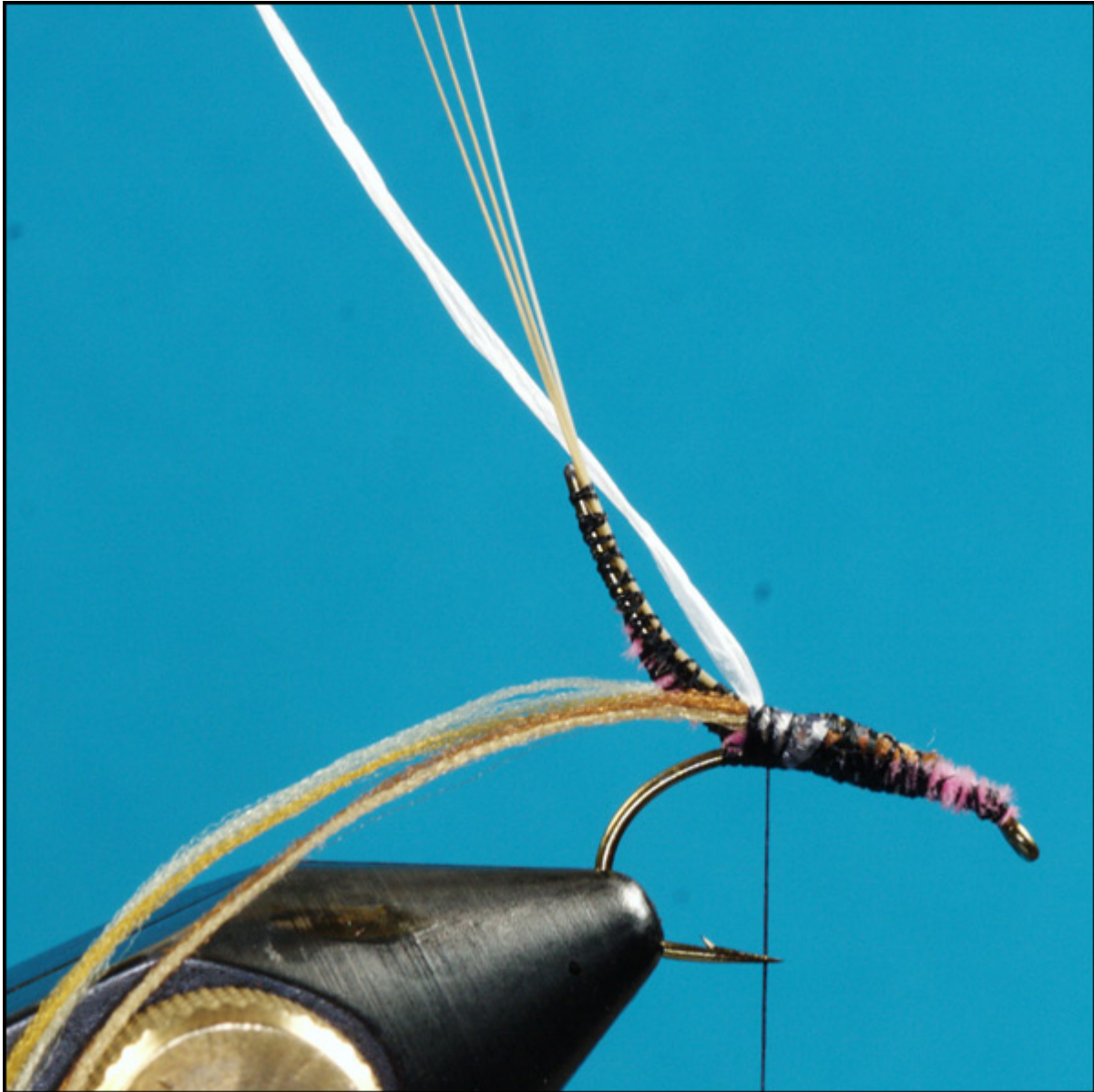
Take a piece of ultra chenille (the color does not matter) and tie it on the bottom of the extended body. This is used to make a better transition from the extended body to the main body. The length should be about 1/3 of the extended body.



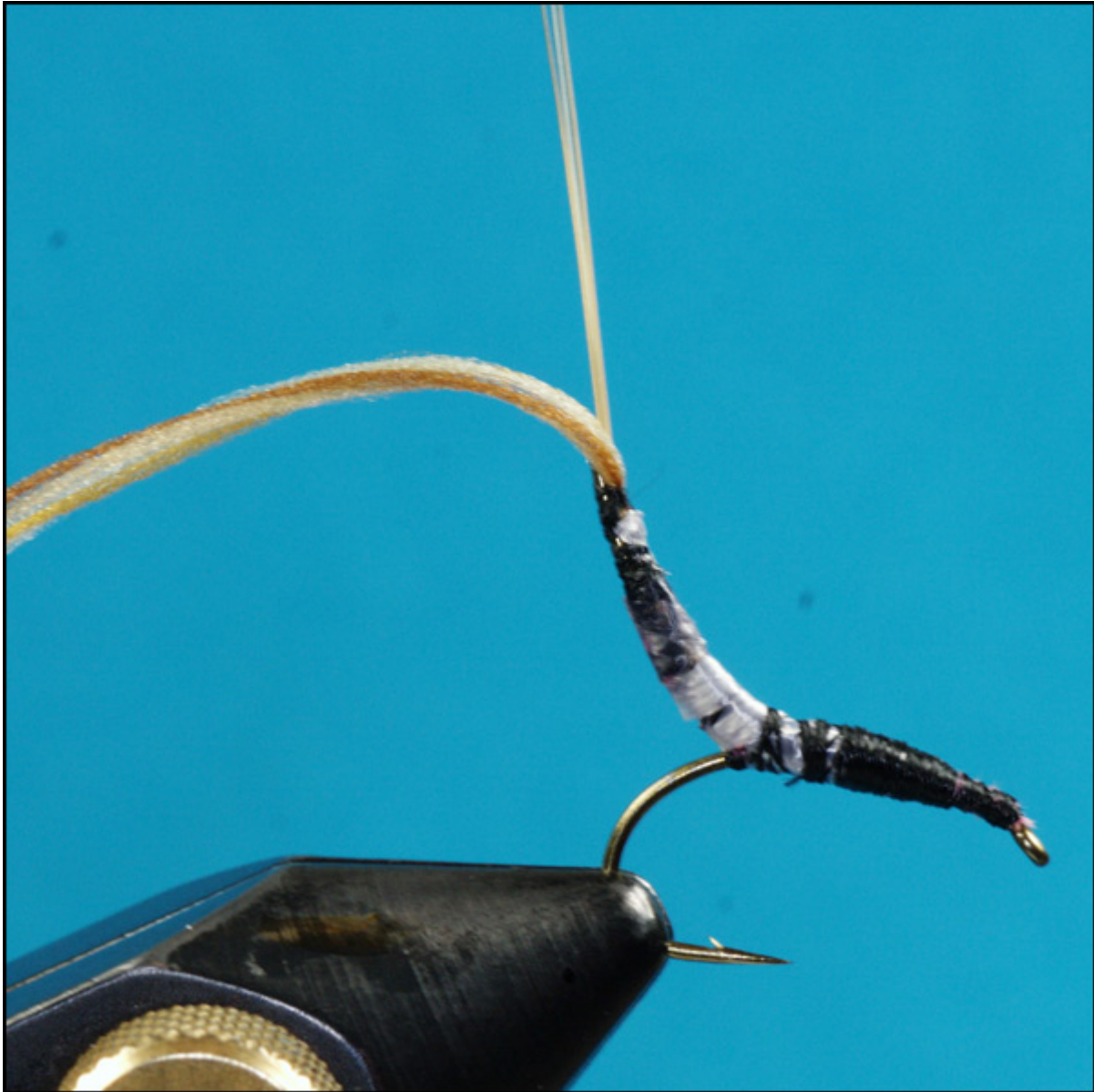
Take the same ultra chenille that was used on the extended body and tie two pieces to each side of the front of the hook. This will give us a little bit more body to work with when we work with the abdomen.



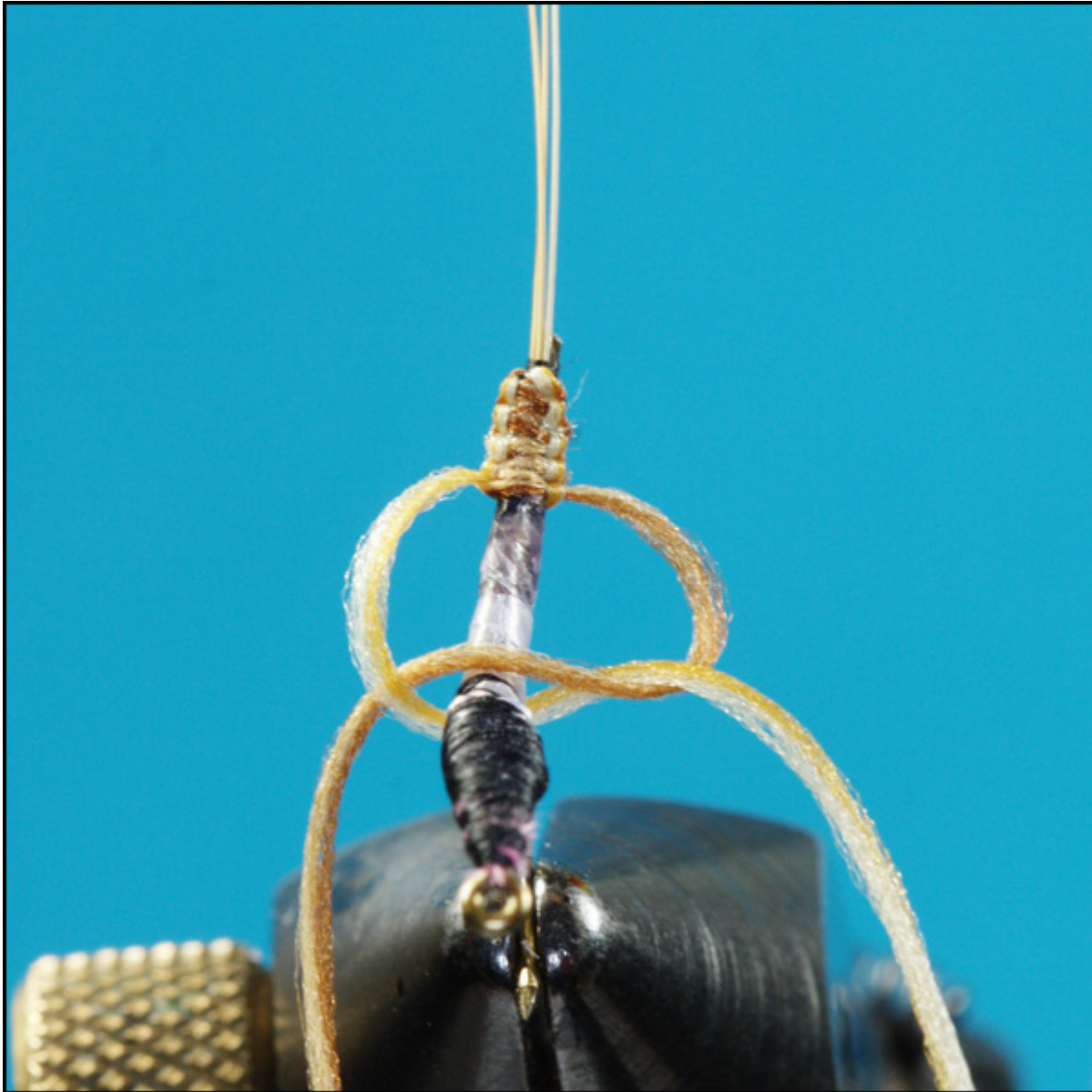
Select three porcupine guard hairs and tie them on top of the main hook up the extended body hook. Don't worry if the are all together, we will split them up later.



Take two strands of the thin poly yarn that you want on the top and tie them together. Then tie them on the side of the hook closest to you. Take the other two strands of poly yarn that you want on the bottom and tie them on the opposite side of the hook. Cut a thin piece of wraphia and tie it in on top of the hook.



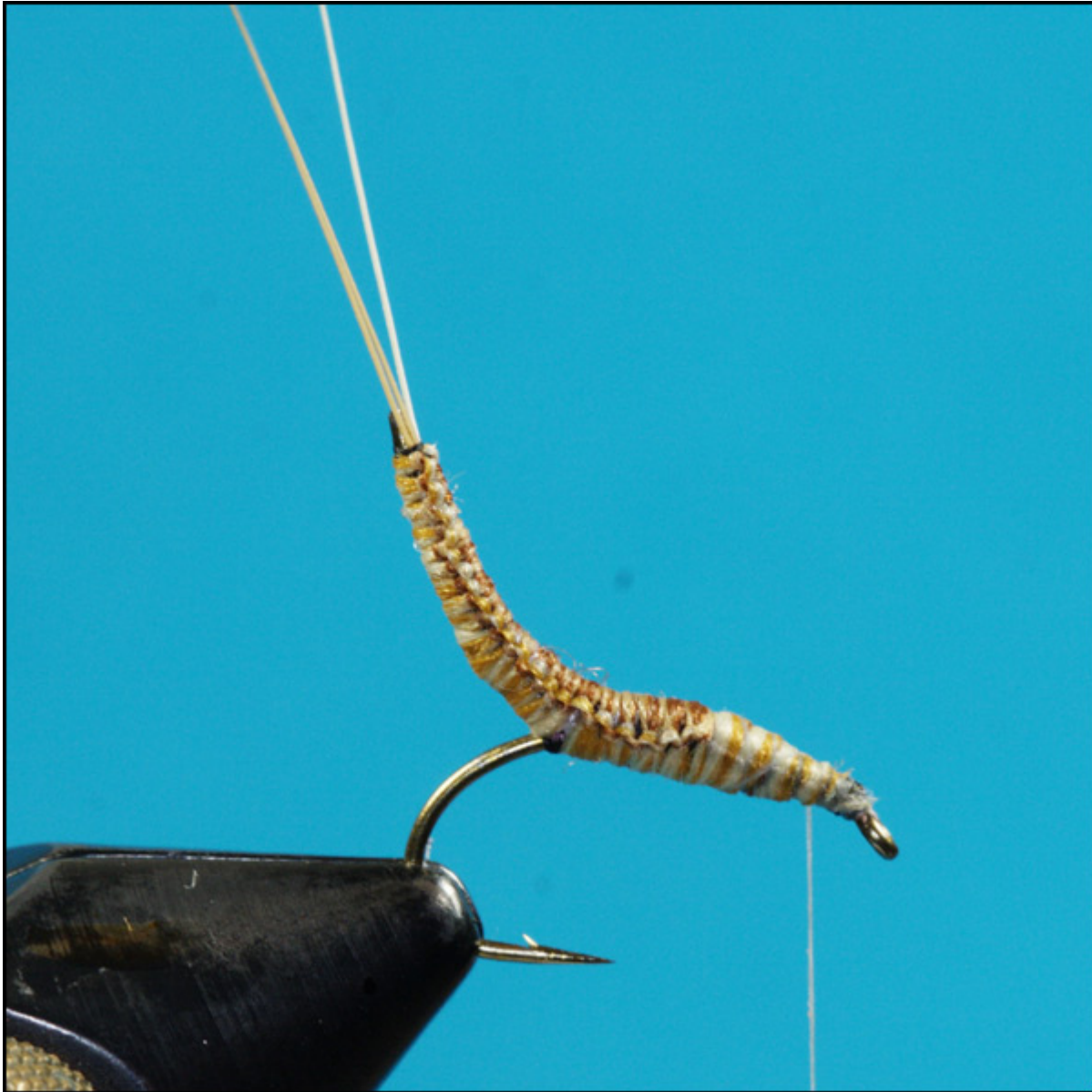
Wrap all of the yarn and wraphia up the extended body and then take the wraphia and start wrapping it down the extended body. As you wrap the wraphia put a slight taper in the body. This gives us a smooth and even surface to braid on. Tie off the thread so it will be easier to braid. Take the vise and rotate it so you are looking directly at the eye of the hook.



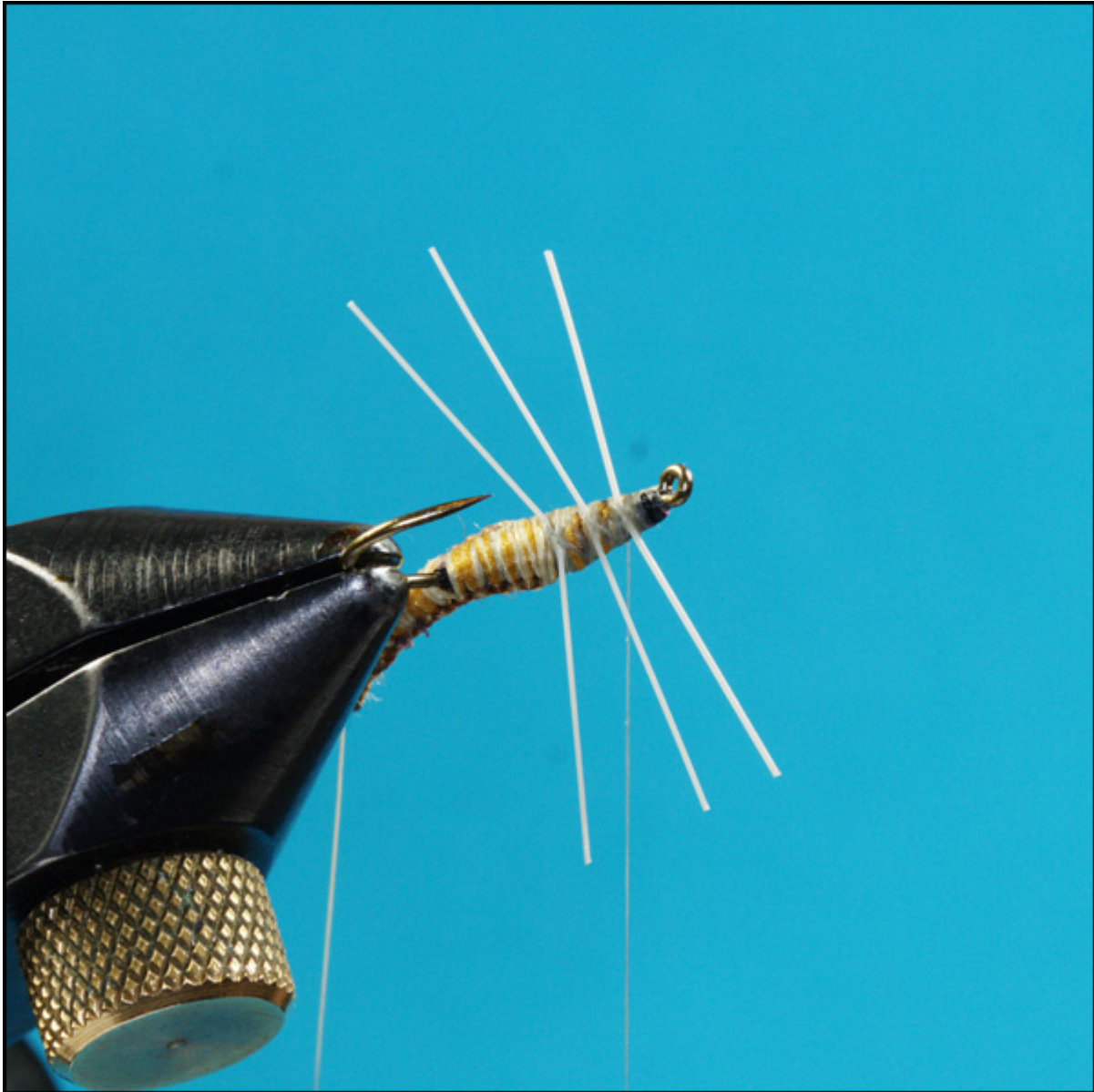
The braid that we will be using is called the crochet weave or the overhand weave. To perform this weave you take the darker color and put it over the top of the hook, then you take the lighter color and put it over the dark color and below the hook and up through the loop that the darker color created. Then the material is tightened and the method is repeated.

Tips:

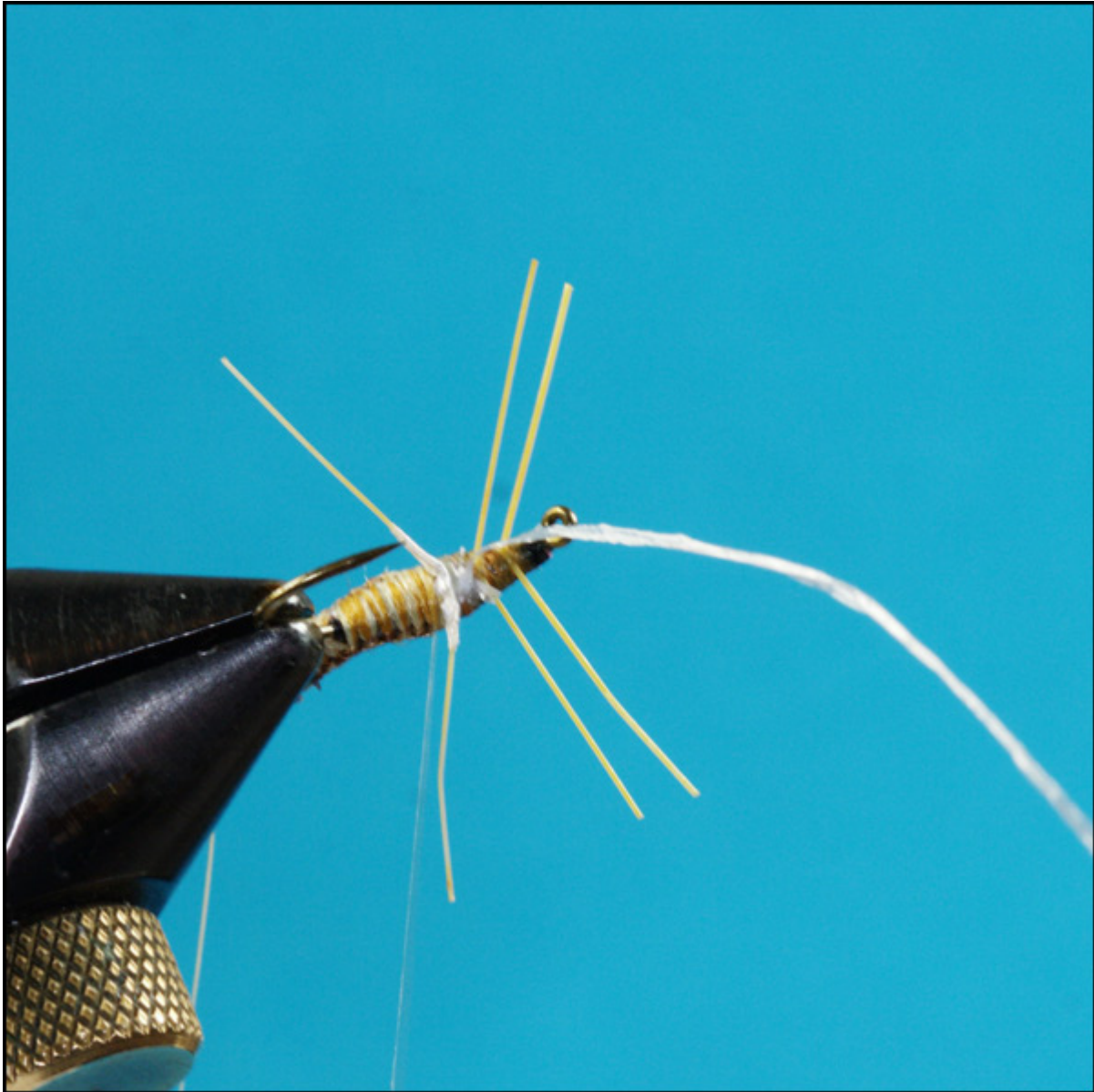
When braiding be sure when you pull the materials tight that it is done in the same direction and tension each time. This will make the body look even.



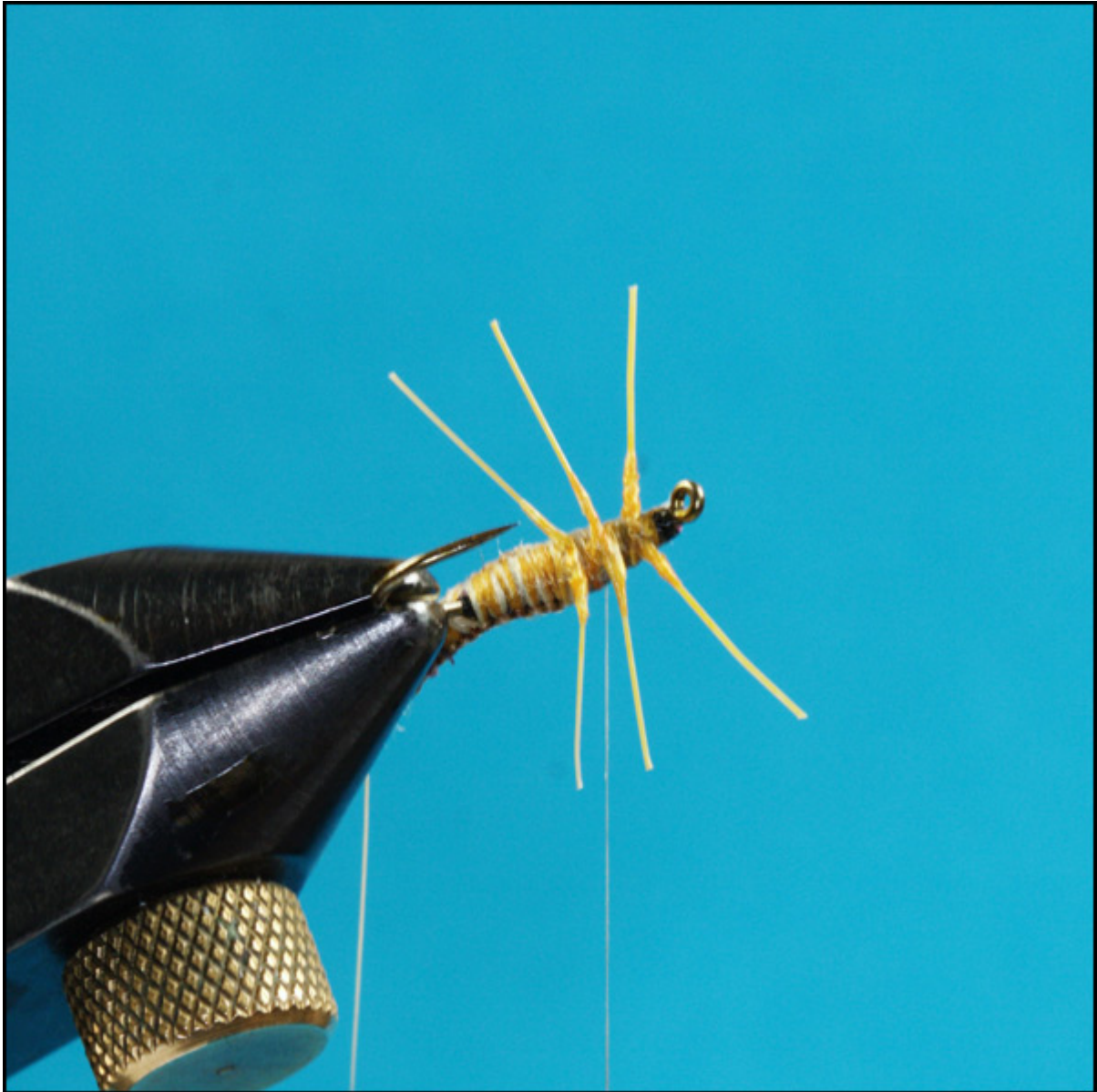
Continue down the body until you get to about the half way point of the hook that is in the vice. Be sure to leave plenty of room for the legs and wings. I take the material that I braided with and wrap it around the hook so it creates a little more body for the thorax.



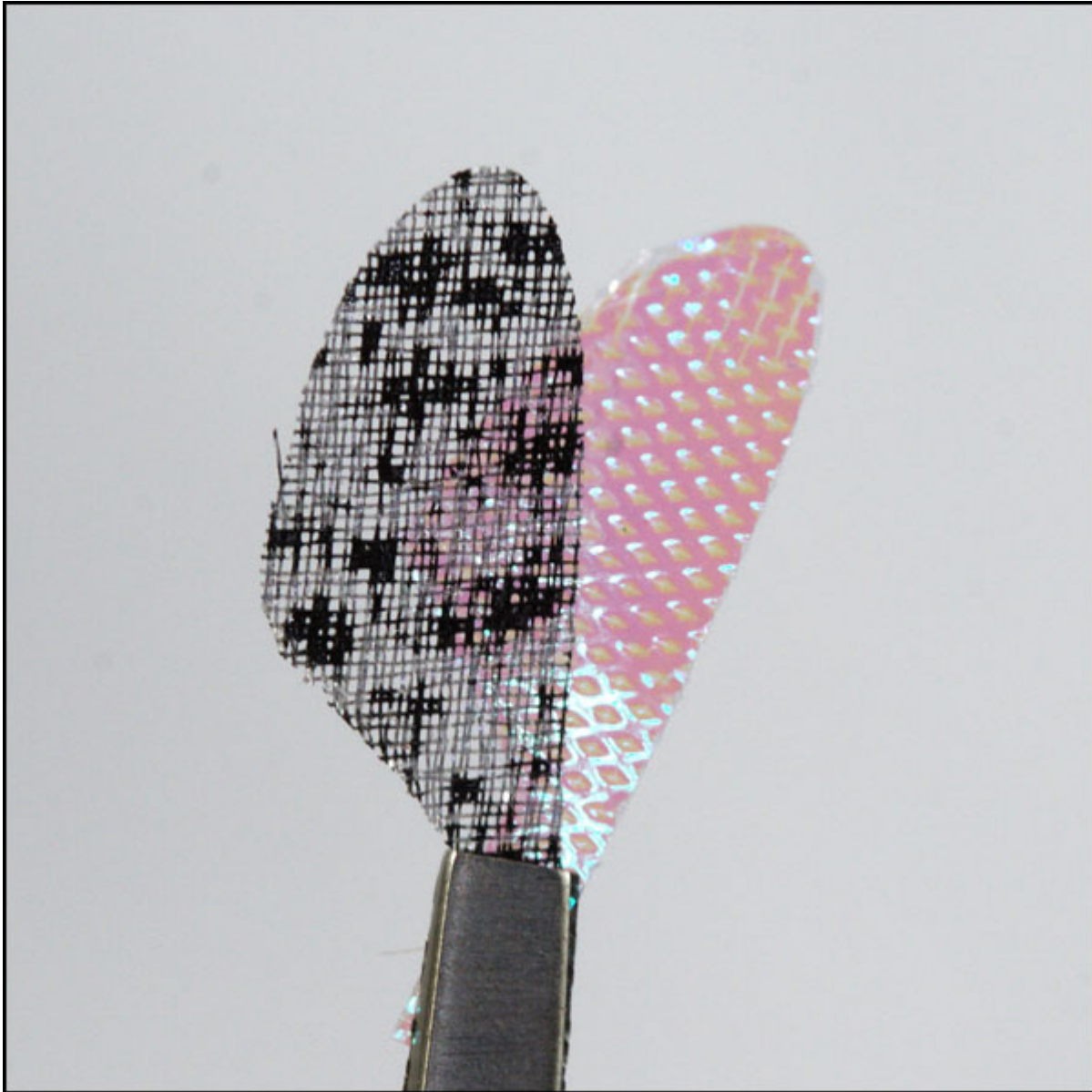
Take 2 tan Japanese Nymph Legs and cut them in half. This will give you 4 legs. Tie in three of the legs on the underside of the fly at the mid point of the nymph legs. Try to space them evenly.



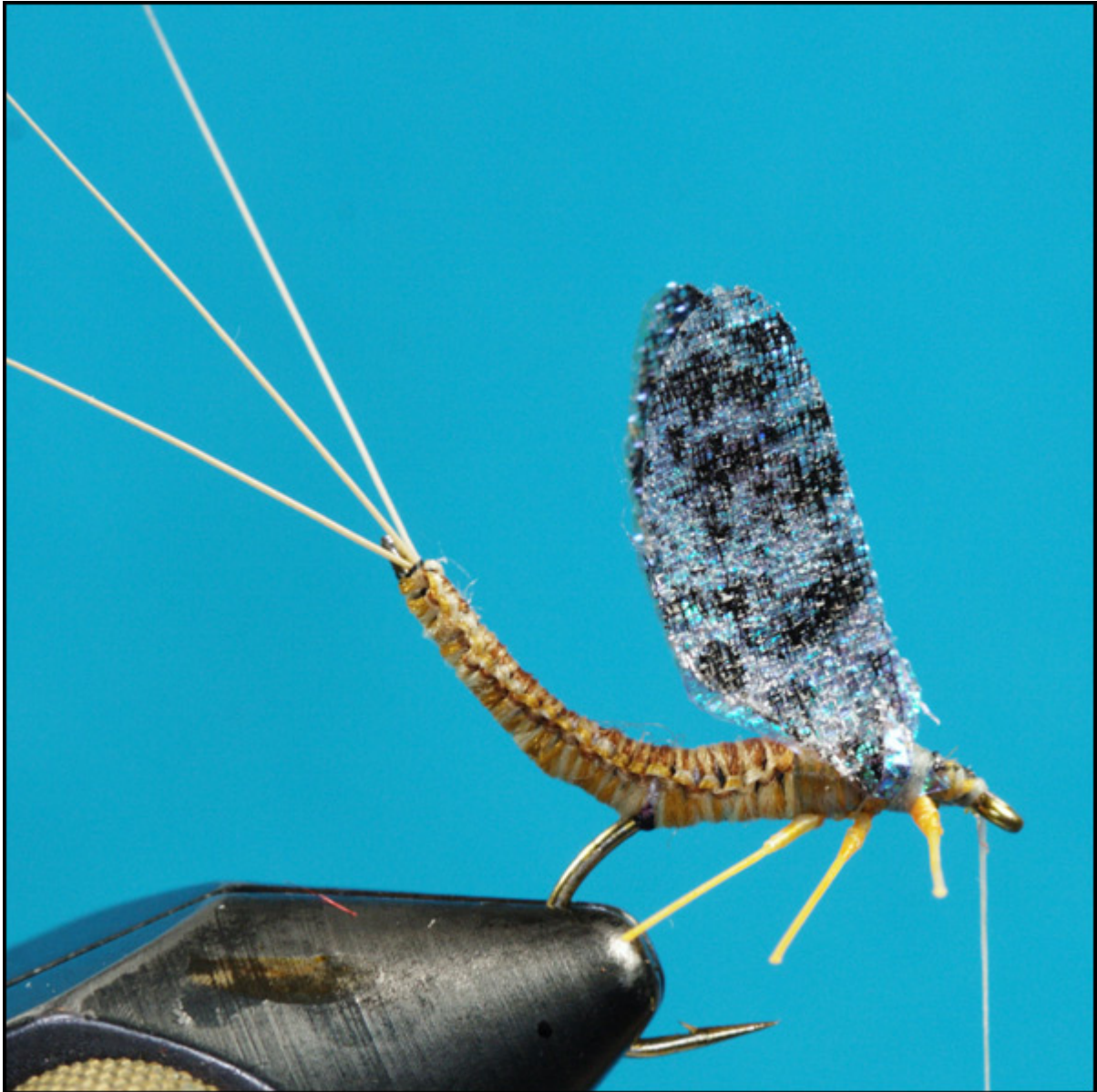
Take another piece of wraphia and tie it around the base of the each leg. This will give us a thicker leg at the base.



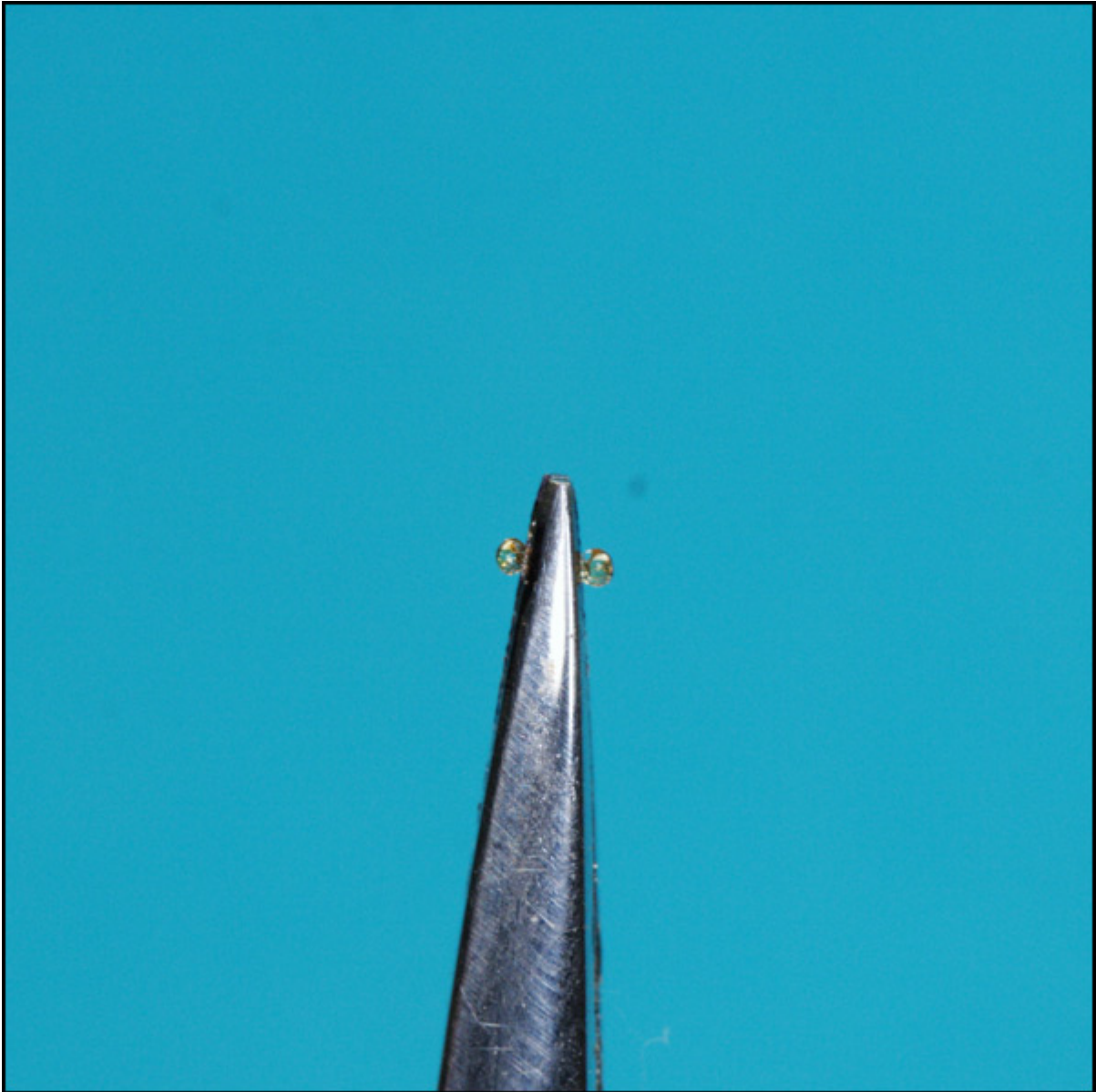
After all of the legs are done, color the legs with a yellow marker. I then put a light layer of head cement on the legs as well.



To make the wings take a piece of Web Wing and another material that is shiny and cut them out with wing cutters or by hand. Then take the two materials and glue them together. The shiny material should be on the inside of the wing. The combination of these materials gives the wing a translucent look.



Take the wings that you just created and tie them in right behind the front leg.



To make the eyes take 3-4 strands of 2lb mono and put them in some small pliers. Take a lighter and burn each side of the mono until a little ball forms. After the mono has cooled a little bit take a black marker and color the eyes black.



Tie the eyes in on the front of the fly. After the eyes are tied in, tie the thread off behind the eyes.

Take some markers and mark the wings, tails, and legs how you want them colored.



Bottom View



Top View