

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jim Gray & Jeff Hoelter

The Llanolope

We are republishing this fly that was originally featured in our July 2012 newsletter because it is very effective in our local waters and the Hill Country. For a video presentation of Matt Bennett tying this fly, go to <https://vimeo.com/75593711>

The Llanolope, was inspired by Capt. Scott Sparrow's VIP, but uses foam cylinders for the head and antelope hair for the body. The round foam head makes a durable fly that is easier to tie and trim, and twists less in windy conditions. I like using yellow

foam and natural hair colors which imitate grass hoppers that are common on the banks of the Llano and other local rivers.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S Stinger hook size 4 to size 6

Thread: Ultra Thread 210

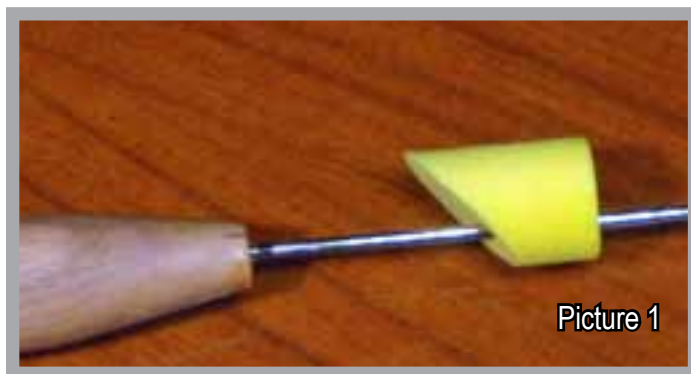
Tail: Natural deer body hair

Body: Natural antelope body hair

Head: Foam cylinder 5/16 for size 6; 3/8 for size 4

Eyes: 5 or 6mm doll eyes

Picture 1: Trim a 5/16 foam cylinder so you have a 45 degree angle at the front with a flat back. Push a bodkin needle through the foam just below the center point and set aside.



Picture 2: Start the thread just before the bend of the hook and make a small thread bump to help keep the tail and hair clumps from sliding off the back of the hook. Clean and stack a small bunch of deer body hair (about the size of a pencil) and trim to length. The tail should be about the length of the hook shank. Use deer for the tail because antelope isn't quite as durable. Slide the hair in place over the hook and tie it in just in front of the thread bump. Hold this clump firmly to keep it from spinning around the hook while you tighten the thread. Move the thread forward and secure with a half hitch.



Pictures 4: Compress this clump with a packer being sure to support the tail to keep from pushing everything off the back of the hook. Continue cleaning, spinning, and packing clumps of antelope until you have just enough room for the foam head.



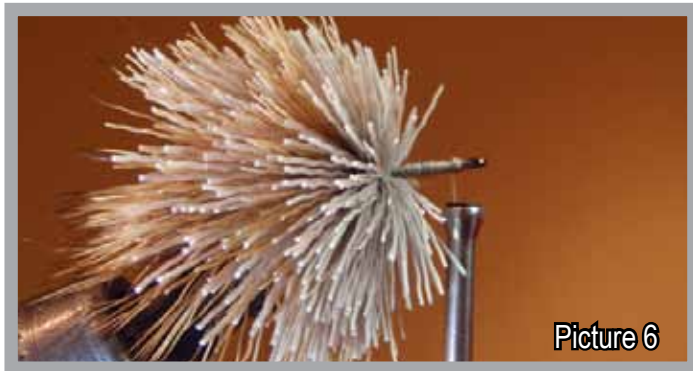
Picture 5: Make sure you have enough space on the hook shank for the head you prepared in step 1. You can do this by laying the head against the hook shank to ensure it will fit.



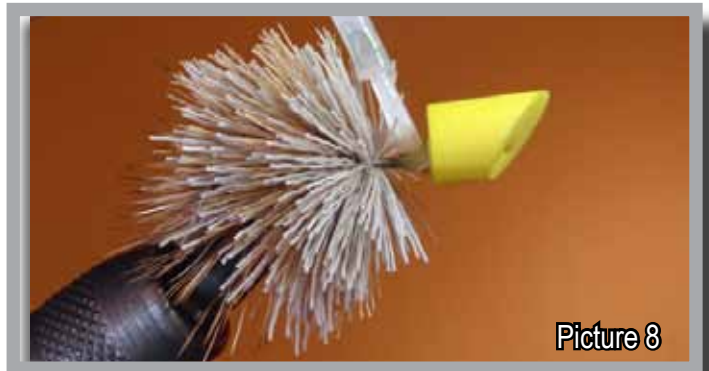
Pictures 3: Clean and spin a small clump of antelope hair in front of the tail.

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Picture 6: Wrap the hook shank with several layers of thread to the hook eye, tie off and clip the thread. This thread base will provide a good surface for gluing the head.



Picture 8: Pull the head back and let it rest on the eye of the hook. Coat the thread and the back of the foam head with Krazy glue and push the head back into place.



Picture 7: Press the head over the eye of the hook and make sure it fits correctly. You can make minor adjustments by trimming the foam if necessary.



Picture 9: Trim the hair following the profile of the foam head. Be careful not to trim off the tail.



Picture 10: Using Krazy glue, attach a 5mm or 6mm doll eye to each side of the foam head. The completed Llanolope.

