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# FLY OF THE MONTH

It's grasshopper time. Fishing is at it's best when the hoppers are working. I find nothing more exciting than having a large trout come up and attack my grasshopper as it floats down the stream. Another reason I like hoppers is that presentation is not critical. You want to make the hopper smack the water - you want it to sound like the real thing. Casting you hopper onto the opposite bank and then flipping it into the water works well.

This fly was featured in Dec 1998 (wrong time for this pattern). I thought this was a good time to repeat. Every fisherman (fisherperson) should have a supply of hopper patterns in the fly box from late July through September. They are great on a windy day!

## PARACHUTE HOPPER

Hook:	Tiemco 5212 Size 8 to 16
Thread:	Primrose or light yellow 8/0 or 6/0
Parachute Post:	White calf tail
Hackle:	Grizzly - parachute style
Body:	Pale grayish yellow dubbing or color to match natural
Wing:	Section of mottled turkey wing treated with Dave's Flexament or acrylic spray
Thorax:	Same as Body
Legs:	Knotted pheasant tail fibers or rubber leg material



1. Wrap thread from the eye to the bend of the hook. Cut a bunch of calf tail - clean out the short hairs and even the tips (Poly yarn can be used rather than calf tail) Tie the hair on top of the hook at approximately the 1/3 point with the tips forward over the eye. Trim the butts to a taper.
2. Hold the hair upright and take a couple of wraps around the base, pull the hair into an upright position. Wrap around the hook shank behind the hair holding the hair in the upright position. Cover the butts with thread and cement them with head cement.
3. Start at the front of the body just behind the upright hackle post and dub to the hook bend and then back to the starting point. The dubbing should be applied so as to create a fat body imitating the natural.
4. Cut a section of the treated turkey feather and secure just behind the post and extending about half a shank length past the bend of the hook.
5. Tie a leg to each side of the body just behind the post. Trim them to size.
6. Wrap a thread base around the post which will serve as a base for the parachute hackle. Dub over the thread wraps tying on the wings and the legs.
7. Tie in a single grizzly hackle in front of the post with the shiny side facing up. Fill the space between the hackle post and the eye with dubbing.
8. Wind the hackle around the post with each wrap under the succeeding wrap. After winding the hackle down the post tie it off and trim the excess. Whip finish and cement.

