



The completed Wonder Wing PMD

**October 2022**  
**FLY OF THE MONTH**  
**"Wonder Wings Made Easy"**  
**Quick'n Easy Parachute**



**Edition:** Month Year

**Written & Photographed by:** Gretchen & Al Beatty

**Creator:** Al Beatty

**O**n a quick look at a looped Wonder Wing, you might think, “There is no way that “flimsy” hackle-fiber wing will support a parachute application.” Believe us, it will after you learn to use the process we’ll share in this chapter.

The Quick ‘n Easy is a fly design Al developed in the early 90s after first learning about Wonder Wings. The parachute addition (above) came years later. It won’t take you long to see why the fly got the name it has. It is a get-it-tied and on-the-water pattern for sure!

**Note to the readers:** Many readers (including us) tend to review the pictures on how to tie a fly and given our experience level, we are able to glean the fly-tying information the author is presenting. If you do that with this pattern, you have a very **high probability** of **failing**. Please check the **pictures** AND the **text** carefully for each step. The fly is easy to tie but does have some steps difficult to capture in a non-motion photograph. The text is there to help explain what’s happening in the photograph.

## **Quick’n Easy Parachute Materials**

**Hook:** Size 20 to 10, TMC 100, Mustad 94840 or similar

**Thread:** Tan, 70 denier (6/0) in size

**Tail:** Waste from the wings, ginger or color of choice

**Wings:** Large ginger feathers, looped Wonder Wings

**Body:** Tan muskrat dubbing

**Hackle:** Ginger, parachute style

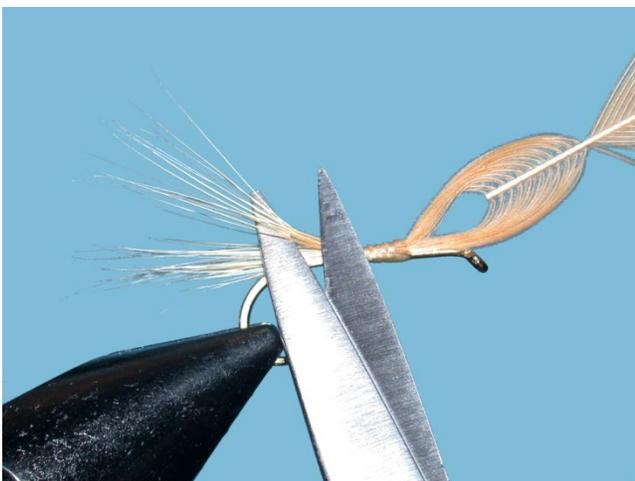
**Head:** Thread



**Step 1:** Mount the hook in the vise and apply a short thread base starting at the 1/4 position back from the eye. Wrap the thread back several turns then forward to the starting point so you have a base that measures the span of three hook eyes. Select two large ginger hackle feathers from a saltwater rooster cape, pair them so the natural curve is **away** from each other and trim away an inch or so of the base end (thickest part) of the stem. Gently sweep the fibers back along a section of the two stems that is 2/3 the length of the hook shank. Tie them on the shank very short. Use three snug but not tight thread wraps as illustrated.



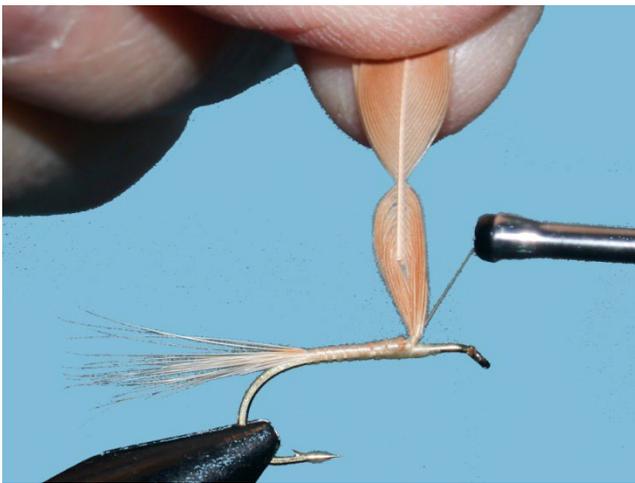
**Step 2:** While holding the fibers between the left forefinger and thumb, gently pull the wings out to the proper length. Continue holding the extra fibers and gently pull the wing assembly up and hold it between the left forefinger and thumb. Now pull the thread tight. Add three more turns of thread to hold the wing in place. **Do not** cut off the **waste fibers** yet.



**Step 3:** Start wrapping toward the back of the shank while gathering the waste fibers from the wing. When you get to a position above the hook point stop wrapping and review the fibers. Our goal is to trim away the excess fibers and leave behind the ones that are the proper length to form a tail. Trim away the waste fibers only.



**Step 4:** After trimming the waste fibers, the remaining will be the tail of the fly. Continue wrapping to the end of the shank and then forward to a position directly in front of the wings.



**Step 5:** Wrap a thread dam in front of the wings then start wrapping a parachute post around the base of the fibers. They are very “floppy” so keep control by holding onto the feather tips while making each turn. If you would rather tie a non-parachute fly then divide the wings at this step, apply the body and hackle to complete the pattern. If you are tying a parachute, then continue following the instructions.



**Step 6:** Once you reach the top of the parachute post, go straight down to the hook shank and take several turns around the shank. We’ll call the application of thread around the fibers, “concrete” and the up & down strand going from the top of the post to the hook shank, “rebar.” Apply three applications of concrete & rebar. In the illustration, we’ve used a black marker on the rebar to show separation between the two.



**Step 7:** We are not done with the concrete & rebar yet but will do a couple of other items to accomplish their placement. Pull the wings apart and trim off the excess feather tips. Place them in a clothespin for use on future flies. Gently place a crisscross wrap between the wings AND parallel to the parachute post. This single crisscross wrap ends up placing 4 strands of rebar (2 in front and 2 behind) tight against the parachute post. Don't worry about them for now, we'll add one more strand and some concrete in the next step. Be sure to leave the thread hanging in front of the wings. *Note: We left a very small space between the rebar and the post so you could better see its placement.*



**Step 8:** Select a ginger hackle feather, strip the fuzzy material from the base of the stem and tie it to the hook in front of the wings. Now it's time to add the concrete and last strand of rebar (feather stem) to the post with a number of thread turns. Wrap up the post and then back down the post to anchor ALL of the rebar including the feather stem plus finish the last application of concrete. The post is now ready for the hackle and the feather is at the top of the parachute platform ready for its part of the process



**Step 9:** Apply dubbing to the thread and wrap a body all the way to the front of the hook. Do not stop at the eye but instead wrap back over the front of the hook ending the body application with the thread hanging **behind** the post.



**Step 10:** Wrap the hackle starting at the top of the post then making each subsequent turn below the previous. Once you reach the body, hold the hackle slightly down and back while taking two turns of **thread around the post**, not the hook.



**Step 11:** Trim off the waste end of hackle then take one more turn of thread around the post to “tuck in” the trimmed feather end.



**Step 12:** Pull the thread forward to the hook eye and place a couple of half hitches. You can apply a whip-finish using the half-hitch tool by placing two turns of thread around the tool then slipping them into place at the eye. We like to place two whip-finishes using this technique then finish the fly with a drop of head cement.



The completed Quick'n Easy Parachute

Both flies we've presented here today can easily be tied in a range of sizes and colors to match any and all mayfly pattern needs. We hope these flies serve you as well as they have us. Please send any comments to us via our website listed below:

Tight Lines – Gretchen & Al Beatty, Boise, Idaho  
[www.btsflyfishing.com](http://www.btsflyfishing.com)

**Editors Notes:** Comments from the editor.

Fly of the Month: Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them. If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact the Fly Tying Group at [ftg@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:ftg@flyfishersinternational.org).

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly. This is the guest tier's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

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