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HI VIS Snowshoe Adams Comparadun

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We're acknowledging Doug Swisher and Carl Richards (authors of *Selective Trout* 1971 and *Emergers* 1991) with this fly. These books can help a novice become a backyard biologist. The "comparadun" featured in *Selective Trout* is a no hackle dry fly that significantly changed dry fly tying and fishing. Tying a "no hackle" fly that sat in the surface film was and still is a game changer and up-ended traditional dry fly patterns. It also led to new synthetic dry fly dubbing and tail materials, which offered substitutes for traditional furs such as muskrat, beaver, and

mink for bodies.

The arrival of summer provides an opportunity (water conditions permitting) to take a beginner fly fishing. Use an 8-foot 6-inch, 5-weight rod, a floating line, and a 9-foot leader. Take them to runs that have a large gravel riffle with some bigger boulders spilling into a nice holding pool. These riffles are often a good place to start and they usually have enough room for beginners. Barbless comparaduns in sizes 12 – 16 are the fly of choice. Please make sure barbs are pinched down. Start between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. when water temperature warms and hatches are starting. Be careful to avoid redds when wading these areas as some fry may have not hatched yet. The fish are usually eager eaters and crazy jumpers, hardly selective other than to the size and shape of the fly. This is a good opportunity to teach a lesson in trout handling and catch and release. One of life's simple treasures!

Hi-Vis Adams Snowshoe Comparadun Recipe

1. *Hook: Daiichi 1110 – sizes 10 – 18. A size 14 is shown in the photo. This is my favorite dry fly hook, having a larger straight hook eye.*
2. *Thread: I like Veevus 10/0, but any 6/0 or smaller. UTC 70 is good in brown, grey, or olive.*
3. *Body dubbing: Blended Ice Dub Callibaetis and Adams gray super fine. Pull a small amount apart and put it back together until blended. This will give the Adams gray a little UV highlight.*
4. *Tail: Rooster hackle fibers, Micro-Fibbets, or Coq De Leon fibers. Any of these make great dry fly tailing. I used Cree hackle in the photo. Start the thread 3 hook-eye lengths behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread rearward to just past the hook barb below. Using a very small amount of dubbing, make a small dubbed ball near the bend of the hook. Bring the thread back to the middle of the shank. Take 6-8 hackle fibers slightly longer than the hook shank, if using Rooster or COQ make sure there is no webby stuff into the tail. Tie them down on top of the hook shank. As you wrap over them towards the dubbed ball pull half of the fibers to each side of the hook. This will make two small tail bundles splayed out ~90 degrees to each other. These will help the fly ride upright in riffle water. Wrap back forward to the starting point.*

5. *Body: With the thread at the starting point, place enough dubbing on the thread to dub a body back to the tail. Using more dubbing to start and less further down the thread will allow you to create a tapered body. Once you get the taper you like, remove any excess dubbing and rib the body with the tying thread back to the starting point.*
6. *Wing post: Hi-Vis Fiber, Sparkle Yarn or equivalent. Hi-Vis is made from polypropylene while Sparkle Yarns are Antron. Hi-Vis is stiffer, but either will work. If using the Sparkle Yarn only use 1 strand. Take enough fibers of the Hi-Vis to make about a 1/16th inch rope when rolled in your fingers that is 2 inches long. Trim one end and tie it in on top of the hook shank, pointing rearward. This will be used to create a Hi-Vis post between the split wings. White is a great color for daytime. Orange is better for evenings.*
7. *Wing: Snowshoe hare foot fur. Take about 3/16th of an inch of the longer hair from a snowshoe hare foot. Remove any small fluff from the base. Compare the clump to the hook to determine length of the wing. It should be a little longer than the body. Place the clump on the shank just ahead of the body with the tips facing forward. Make one loose wrap, then while holding the clump tightly in your fingers, make a pinch wrap to try to keep the clump on top of the hook shank. Make 3 or 4 more very firm wraps securing the hair. Don't trim the butt ends that are standing up behind the wing. With this sized clump, the hair should splay almost 150 degrees. Move the thread to in front of the hair and build a thread dam to stand up the wing. You can also help the wing stand up by pushing at its base with your thumbnail in between the wraps while making the thread dam. Using the same dubbing as the body, dub the thread (sparse) with enough to make 4-5 wraps. Make 2-3 wraps behind the rear clump of rabbit and ahead of the Hi-Vis to get the rear wing to stand up and then a couple in front to stand the front wing up. The result should be a nice thorax and an even taper to the hook eye. Make sure you have about 1 hook eye space for the next step.*
8. *Split Wing: Divide the wing as evenly as possible with a bodkin. Pull the Hi-Vis yarn between the hair-wing and secure it at the hook eye with 2 wraps. Then, push the Hi-Vis back between the divided wings. Secure with 2 more wraps and Whip finish. Trim the Hi-Vis even with the wing. I colored the head area with a brown marker.*

Carry absorbent paper towels with you to dry the fly when needed. If you use something like Dave's Bug Flote, always dry the fly first. Rub only a small amount that only feels like a film on your fingers into the fly. Another tip that I learned is to put Rain-X on your dry flies after tying and let them dry overnight before use.