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The Prime Mouradian

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This fly was invented by Mike Mouradian of Ann Arbor, Michigan. I first saw Mike's video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcRrse5ENRc>) last June. It caught my eye because he described his fly as, "The only fly you need, but can't buy." Mike is a past president of the Ann Arbor chapter of Trout Unlimited, and he is an instructor at the TU Fly Fishing School. Mike refers to his fly as a "guide fly." It ties quickly and uses only deer hair, peacock herl, and rubber legs.

After tying a half dozen and field testing them, they worked as well as Mike claimed. I tracked down Mike's email through TU and told him what a great fly I thought he'd invented. He gave me his permission to use his fly in our Fly of the Month series. It is a great "general purpose" fly that can imitate many different bugs from mayflies and stoneflies to hoppers. It is a hybrid humpy with a half bullet head on top and a deer hair wing. It's almost a miniature Dahlberg Diver when submerged. It's a fly to have anywhere fish swim. With a little practice, this fly can be made in minutes. Thanks Mike.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Size 12 – 14 Daiichi 1110. It's my favorite for this type of fly, being an "over-sized" straight eye, wide gap, 1X fine wire hook, with a "mini-barb."*
2. *Thread: Olive UTC 140 denier. This is a great thread for deer hair. Attach the thread behind the hook eye and overwrap to just above the hook barb (the stopping point).*
3. *Body: Peacock herl. Align the butt ends of three 5-inch-long strands and trim off about 1 inch. Lay the herl along the top of the hook with the butt ends extending forward for about 2/3 the length of the hook shank. Overwrap the herl and return the thread to the stopping point. Now, wrap the peacock forward to about one eye-width short of the hook eye and overwrap it back to the thread and tie off. With each wrap of herl, you'll put a twist in the herl "rope." This adds durability, so do not let go of the herl. Remove the excess.*
4. *Tail, hump, and wing: Deer body hair. You'll need a clump that's about 3/16-inch thick and 1½ inches long. Choose medium-thick hair, not fine and not coarse! Don't stack the hair. While pinching the hair about a half inch from the tip of the clump, remove the under fur and any short hairs. The next step might seem tricky, but it really isn't. While holding the clump by the tips, position it to make a tail about 1 hook shank long. Hold the clump above the tie-in point at the tail, then lift your bobbin and make a soft loop with the thread completely around the clump above the hook shank. Now, while holding it in position, pull the thread downward to lock the tail in place. Next, secure the tail with a few gradually tighter pinch wraps. The deer hair will flair out. Now, move the thread to behind the hook eye. You can put a couple thread wraps through the peacock herl to get to the eye. Bundle the flared deer hair into a rope. While holding the hair bundle firmly above the hook shank and just ahead*

of the hook eye, make another loose wrap of thread behind the eye. Pull the thread down and secure it with progressively tighter pinch wraps. The hair will flare out again. Move the thread rearward to a little short of the ½-way point on the hook shank. Bundle the clump into a rope again and pull it rearward. Secure with a few pinch wraps. This should make the half-bullet head and the flared wing.

5. *Legs: Medium rubber legs (color of your choice). Tie a rubber leg to each side at the point where you secured the wing. This is known as X-legs style. Half hitch or whip finish. Trim the legs to a length you like.*