

52 Buick

Written by Gary Hanke



History:

The 52 Buick was developed by Gary Carlson in about 1975 to imitate the damselfly nymph. Gary and his partner Russ Thornberry were two of the three original owners of "The Fishin' Hole" in Saint Albert, Alberta. Having taken their fly tying class in a small shack outside of town. Here the 52 Buick was one of the first flies they taught us to tie. In Russ Thornberry's book, *Fishing Jasper National Park*, he writes, "A good friend and fishing partner of mine, Gary Carlson, developed a fly which works well in Christine Lake as well as in many other lakes. Gary has entitled his creation the "52 Buick" because, as he says, "there is no stopping it." Reg Denny included the 52 Buick in his 1998 book, *"Flies for Alberta"*. Gary used to fish Carson Lake near Whitecourt, Alberta because there were rainbows in that lake up to about seventeen pounds at the time and damselfly nymphs were a favourite food source of these large trout.

The original pattern called for lemon coloured mallard flank for the tail and beard,

My Fly Life

but it was often tied with Wood Duck flank feathers. The pattern is a go to pattern during the Damsel fly hatch in much of Western Canada now a day. But has also proven itself during the larger drake hatches of the region on many occasions. This is a fly that the rougher it becomes the better it works. A tip on tying this pattern is to brush it out with your Velcro brush and bush it up some. The new synthetic materials on the market today make this pattern style endless in variations. The original recipes called for the following materials.

Hook: 79580 4xl

Tail: Imitation Wood Duck 8 to 10 fibres

Rib: Gold flat tinsel

Body: Dubbed olive muskrat fur tapered towards the head, stop the body with 1/4 of the shank left for the thorax.

Thorax: Peacock Herl

Beard 8 to 10 fibers Wood Duck extending halfway to the hook point from behind the hook eye.

Pattern	Tying Procedure	Imitates
Nymph	Silhouette Style	Damsels, Large Mayfly nymphs, chironomids

Material List:

Hook: Hends BL254 #8-12

Thread: Nano Silk 12/0 White

Tail: Wood Duck Flank or Breast feathers

Body: Grey Muskrat or Hends Hare Dubbing Plus

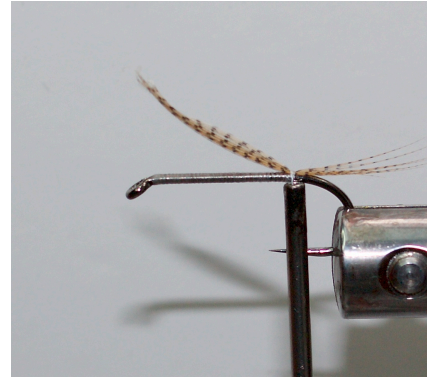
Hackle: Beard style Wood Duck Flank or Breast feathers (Preference is fibers out the side of the pattern from behind the hook eye.)

Thorax: Peacock Herl or Hends Spectra Dubbing

Step by Step

Step # 1.

Start your thread with a catch behind the hook eye and with touching turns wrap to the top of the hook bend at the rear of the hook shank. Attach 5-8 fibers of barred wood duck breast or flank feathers.



Step # 2.

Attach your choice of .1mm or .2 mm wire or Hends Pearl Quill as a ribbing material. Cut both the ends of the tail fibers and the wire at the rear of the thorax position. (1/3 of hook shank behind the hook eye.)



Step # 3.

Wrap with touching turns tightly toward the rear of the thorax position and return the thread to the tail tie in position.



Step # 4.

Build a very thin dubbing noodle on your thread with the Muskrat hair or with your choice of the Hends Hare Dubbing Plus material. Hends Hare Dubbing Plus has a light mix of 20% Ice Dubbing in the blended ratio.



Step # 5.

Wrap with touching turn of the dubbing noodle forward to the rear of the thorax position and then back down the hook shank to half the body length and then once again back forward to the rear of the thorax position. This layering will build a slight taper in the abdomen.



Step # 6.

Wrap your rib forward with open turns. Spacing should allow for 5-7 turns of the ribbing material.



Step # 7.

Wrap the Spectra #46 Dubbing on as a dubbing noodle as you did with the abdomen section. Or Peacock herl. Peacock is now on the CITIES program and will become rare to find in the future.



Step # 8.

Add 5-8 barred Wood Duck fibers to each side or as a beard. Your choice. Cut away excess material. Build your head and whip finish.

