

## Quill Gordon

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*Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner*

*By: Phil Fischer*



One of the most timeless fly patterns was brought to us by Theodore Gordon, a famous fly fisher and fly tier that created his namesake fly pattern, the Quill Gordon, in the late 1800's. This pattern was created to fish the tumbling streams and waters in the Catskill Mountains in the Eastern United States. The Quill Gordon was the first of the iconic Catskill series of fly patterns, which include the Red Quill, Hendrickson, Light Cahill and many more. The patterns were originally designed to imitate mayflies common in the region and are still tied and in widespread use today. It was adapted from some flies used on placid English chalk streams sent to the Catskill region by renowned English Fly-Fishing Author, Fredrick Halford. With some changes to adapt the English patterns to the faster and more tumbling waters of the Catskill region, Theodore's Quill Gordon fly pattern was borne.

I followed the original pattern in this rendition very closely. I used a Whiting Coq de Leon hackle fiber for the tail in natural pardo. I also used a stripped peacock eye barb dyed brown for the abdomen. The wing features a lemon wood duck flank feather tied in a rolled wing style mirroring the original patterns that have become a mainstay many of the traditional Catskill dry fly patterns. Lastly, the hackle is a Whiting dry fly saddle feather in a natural dun. I added a degree of strength to the pattern using some superglue under the peacock eye and hackle. Obviously, superglue was not available when the

original Quill Gordon was created. However, Mr. Gordon often used a counter wrap of fine wire to strengthen the abdomen of the pattern to achieve the same result.

Give this pattern a try on some of our local Central Oregon rivers. It works!

**Quill Gordon Materials List:**

**Hook:** Firehole 419 Size 14-18  
**Thread:** Danville's 6/0 Flat Waxed, Tobacco Brown  
**Wing:** Natural Lemon Wood Duck Flank Feather  
**Tail:** Whiting Coq De Leon, Medium Pardo  
**Abdomen:** Polish Quill, Natural  
**Hackle:** Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Unique Variant – Natural Dun

Tying instructions and steps are published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/jhtui7kKwxA>

Experiment with this pattern, or other traditional Catskill dry flies, on Central Oregon's Rivers. Or just enjoy the beauty and tradition that comes with tying some of these classics. If you have questions or would like additional information about Catskill patterns, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at [Philfischer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Philfischer@sbcglobal.net).