

**Edmonds' & Lee's
No. 8b "March Brown"
"Brook & River Troutling"**

This, being the month of March, it's appropriate that we have some info on a "March" fly – namely a "March Brown". This soft hackled fly dressing is taken from Edmonds' & Lee's classic book called "Brook & River Troutling", first published in 1916. (My copy is a 1997 reprint).

In "Brook & River Troutling", Edmonds & Lee provide two dressings for the March Brown, shown as "8a" and "8b" – I've been tying the "8b" pattern, which is a "hackled dressing" whereas the "8a" is a "winged dressing". (Got you confused yet?)

The flies pictured below were tied exactly as stated in the Edmonds & Lee book / dressing using the hard to get Pearsall silk and the Snipe Rump feathers both of which I was able to obtain several years ago.

The dubbing came from a natural Hare's Ear mask that I dyed using a red Pantone felt tipped pen, mixing the Pantone-dyed Hare's Ear with some dubbing from a red-dyed Hare's Ear mask.

As usual, Daiichi #1550, wet fly hooks were used, size 12s in this picture, but I've also tied a few on size 14 hooks.



Here's the original dressing, as taken from "Brook & River Troutling":

No. 8b

March Brown

Ephemeridae

Hook - 2 or 3

Wings - Hackled with a mottled brown feather from a Snipe's rump.

Body - Orange silk, No. 6a, dubbed with the fur from the nape of a rabbit's neck which has been lightly tinged red with Crawshaw's Red Spinner dye, and ribbed with gold wire or tinsel.

Tail - Two strands from a feather from a Snipe's rump, same feather as used for the wings.

Head - Orange silk.

April, and often May.