

Mallard Roof - A Suggested Approach to Application

by Wayne Luallen

Mallard roofs can be especially troublesome by splitting at the tie in point. Instead of folding the strip of mallard that you have previously slightly straightened away from the feather stem; and then peeled (not cut) off, try holding the tip ever so gently by thumb and index finger, so that the strip very slightly begins to cup. Place this slightly cupped strip carefully over the wing, but do not touch it to the wing. The peeled ends should be just beyond the tie in point at the head and just barely touching. This is the only part of the feather strip that touches anywhere on the fly at this point. Now try to carefully capture the mallard just behind the peeled area with one or two wraps of flat thread. This will pull the strip down, cupping, but not splitting it. Then, with a small paint brush, paint saliva under the edge of the mallard as it lays over each side of the wings. This will pull and "glue" the strip into place. Be cautious that too much saliva is not used, because it will show by shrinking the barbules in the barbs and drawing the strip together.

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