

Margo+Lola Driftless Beginner Fly Box Guide

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| <p>QUICK STRATEGY (DRIFTLESS REALITY) Start subsurface: Pheasant Tail, Hare’s Ear, or Pink Squirrel Add weight or size if no contact (Copper John / Pat’s) Go small when fish get picky (RS2 / Zebra Midge) Look up when you see rises (Adams / BWO / Caddis) Summer = banks (Hopper / Ant)</p> | <p>FOUNDATION NYMPHS (Start Here) Pheasant Tail — 14–18, natural <i>Default mayfly nymph. Dead-drift everywhere.</i> Hare’s Ear — 12–16, tan/gray <i>“Looks like food.” Great in slightly off water.</i> Pink Squirrel — 12–16, pink hotspot <i>Driftless confidence fly. If unsure, tie this on.</i> Zebra Midge — 18–22, black/red/olive <i>Cold water, picky fish, winter-to-spring.</i> RS2 — 18–22, gray/olive <i>Technical water. Sparse wins.</i></p> |
| <p>EMERGERS & SWING FLIES Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail — 14–18 <i>Swing at end of drift—alive and effective.</i> Klinkhammer — 14–18, olive/tan <i>Emergers trapped in film. Deadly when fish are subtle.</i></p> | <p>DEPTH & POWER (When Water Moves or Rises) Copper John — 14–18, copper/red/green <i>Gets down fast. Use in deeper runs.</i> Pat’s Rubber Legs — 6–10, black/brown <i>High water, big meal profile.</i> Woolly Bugger — 6–10, black/olive <i>Search pattern. Cover water, find fish.</i></p> |
| <p>DRY FLIES (TOP WATER) Parachute Adams — 14–20, gray <i>All-purpose mayfly. Reliable and honest.</i> Blue-Winged Olive (Dry) — 16–22, olive <i>Cloudy days, light rain hatches.</i> Elk Hair Caddis — 14–18, tan/olive <i>Evening activity. Floats well in riffles.</i> Trico — 20–24, black <i>Early morning. Tiny and technical.</i></p> | <p>TERRESTRIALS (SUMMER EDGE) Chernobyl Ant — 8–12, black/tan <i>Attractor + indicator. Easy to see.</i> Grasshopper — 8–12, tan/yellow <i>Fish tight to banks. Let it land imperfectly.</i></p> |
| <p>IF YOU ONLY CARRY FIVE Pink Squirrel • Pheasant Tail • Elk Hair Caddis • Parachute Adams • Zebra Midge</p> | |