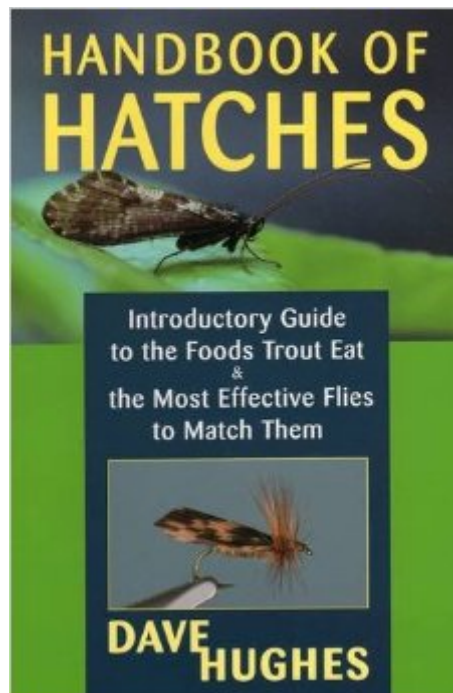


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# Handbook Of Hatches: Introductory Guide To The Foods Trout Eat & The Most Effective Flies To Match Them



## Synopsis

"Excellent ... invaluable." -- The New York Times, on Dave Hughes  
Popular reference work updated with full-color photos of the insects  
An understandable approach and useful guide to fishing hatches  
Covers mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, midges, dragonflies, boatmen, alderflies, and hellgrammites  
Fishing success comes from making wise observations on stream and acting on them right away. In Handbook of Hatches, Hughes teaches how to match the hatch and not worry about identifying the insect until later, if at all, and to fish better, focus on shape, size, and color to choose the best fly for the situation.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (98 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The strength of this book is its approach at SIMPLIFYING your selection of trout patterns. Hughes' basic contribution is to make the point that bugs of specific families (e.g. mayflies, caddisflies, etc.) can all be matched by the same fly style. All that needs to be changed to match the natural is color and size. For example, a parachute style fly can be used to match BWOs, PMDs, Hendricksons, and any other mayfly. What needs to vary is just the color and size. The other helpful point from this book is the idea that basic pattern designs should be chosen to match water conditions, not specific hatches. For example, Catskill flies for rough water, Comparadun style for smooth water, Parachute style for water in between. This is in contrast to selecting pattern designs for specific bugs (e.g. comparadun for a BWO). The true value of this book is the focused clarity on selecting and tying patterns for a simplified fly box. I think this book will be useful for beginners confused by the vast array of available patterns, and for more advanced anglers looking for clarity and simplicity in their pattern selections.

Dave Hughes is a professional writer that happens to be an avid fly fisherman. That much is obvious after reading one page of his book, "Handbook of Hatches." It would take years of experience to get to the level knowledge and the level of confidence that simply reading this book will take you to. Let's face it, a book about insects could be very tedious, OK, boring; but Mr. Hughes book reads like you are sitting down and having a conversation with him, while fishing! He has approached this subject in a friendly and enduring style that I would not have thought possible. As to the importance of the work; I believe that this is a "must have" reference for anyone that hasn't already spent a lifetime on a trout river.

Trout eat things. Sometimes its nymphs, sometimes its Duns, sometimes its Terrestrials. This book discusses the insects that Trout eat and gives you clues on how to determine what they are eating and how to match it when you hit the water. This fisherman introduction to bugs is scientific enough to get you started into further research if you would like and basic enough that you don't have to learn Latin names in order to understand what type of Caddis you are looking for. This book is also a good resource for learning how to tie flies that will match the hatches that you are experiencing. The only downfall in my opinion is that the pictures are not in color and therefore you don't get as exact of a photographic match of the insects as you would with color photography.

Very well written, gave me (a novice) a lot of good information about what trout eat and where to find them. I especially liked the comparison with a real fly and then a picture of a tied fly. Great, I would recommend this to anyone novice or very experienced.

This is far more than an introduction to the entymology, the context, and the how-to instruction to identifying, tying and fishing with flies that match the hatches. Clearly written and well illustrated with color photography, Handbook of Hatches is a pleasure to read and reread. Food here for the novice and for the experienced fly fisher.

Outstanding...the book i've been looking for. As a freshwater fly fisherman, I've been looking for a book that offers an applicable approach to matching the hatch. This book succeeded. Hughes successfully establishes the primary aquatic insects of a trout's diet (stoneflies, mayflies, and caddis flies) then skillfully and simply explains each species specific life cycle. His basic premise is to focus on 5 aspects of an insect/hatch to successfully immitate and fish it: shape (determined by species

and stage), color, size, behavior, and habitat. Maintaining this theme throughout the text allows you to store this information in a logical and simple form. Furthermore, it allows you to apply this knowledge rapidly and with confidence. If the fish doesn't care what the Latin name of its food is, why should we? This book is based on the KISS principle: Keep It Simple Stupid. Outstanding.

Dave Hughes has hit a homerun with this offering. Very informative! Good reading, as well as a great reference guide. I've been fly fishing for over 25 years and have accumulated quite a library of books that cover all aspects of the sport. Many books dredge over the same material over and over again. Handbook of Hatches gives a different perspective at choosing the best fly for a particular situation. Imitative vs. impressionistic. When and where to use each. My copy stays in my Jeep, ready to be thumbed through during a break to help me solve any trout food issues that I may be encountering. It has proven to be a fine streamside guide that myself and my fellow fly fishermen have gone to many times.

One of the first and best books anyone wishing to begin fly fishing should read. My opinion is that there more than a few people thrashing around with a fly rod who could use the knowledge imparted in this book. It is what the title and subtitle say it is, and well written in an interesting way, and backed with real life examples from the author's fishing career. Guide to the naturals, the patterns, and the presentations. Essential handbook for your approach to the water and food sources for trout. Enjoyed reading this book and will read it again and reference it often, for all the information and techniques that it has to offer. Will not lend my copy to anyone!!! Thank you, Dave.

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