

# OZARK FLY FISHERS Missouri Fly Box

Twenty-Five Best Flies

For

Missouri Parks and Streams



## Introduction



The old expression 'what is one man's trash is another man's gold' is true in fly fishing and fly selection. What one fly fisher perceives as the 'go to' fly might not even make the fly box of another fly fisher. This selection of 25 flies is, therefore, not meant to change your mind about your favorite fly (just in case it didn't make the top 25). I am certain that some of your favorite fly patterns did not make the list. The selections are, however, provided to give you some food for thought and to provide the fodder for discussion – and argument, if you so please.

The 25 flies are meant to be used for fishing for trout and have been identified for the State of Missouri; but as anyone who has fished in other areas will testify, the selection can be used in most places that trout are found. Don't be afraid to take some of these patterns along to that trip out West or back East.

The list has been compiled from a survey conducted by the Ozark Fly Fishers of its membership and is provided in alphabetical order. The survey was taken in 2009 so the list is current. However, the sampling consisted of only a small percent of the entire membership. There was nothing scientific about the survey and only can be taken at face value. The survey was compiled by Al Bourisaw on the web site.



# The Fly

Dave Whitlock's,  
*Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods*



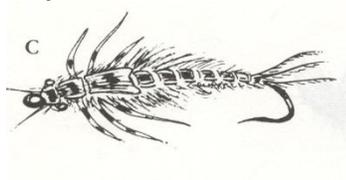
## Suggestive.....

- a particular form of artificial fly that depicts a simple, crude, almost nondescript live natural food.



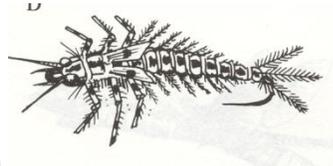
## Impressionistic.....

- a particular form of artificial fly that gives a more distinct illusion of a general food form, such as a snail, mayfly nymph, or sculpin minnow.



## Realistic.....

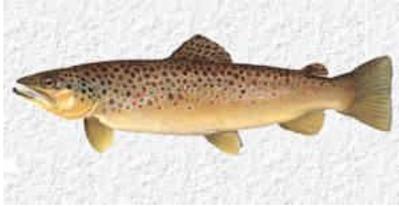
- a particular form of artificial fly that more closely imitates a particular live species in which the major imitation characteristics – size, shape, color, and texture – are observed.



## Exact.....

- a particular form of artificial imitation that seeks to duplicate an existing aquatic food by being its best possible copy.

# WHY DO TROUT TAKE A FLY ?



- Chuck and Sharon Tryon,  
*Fly Fishing for Trout in Missouri*

*NO ONE but Doctor Doolittle has ever conversed intelligently with a trout, but experience suggests three reasons. The most obvious one, of course, is hunger; the fly is mistaken for a natural food. **This is the theory behind imitation.***

*Another is curiosity. Your fly may not resemble a familiar food very much, but it looks or acts like something good enough to eat. Lacking hands, the only way the trout can find out is to chomp down on it. **This is the theory of attraction***

*The third is harder to hang a name on, but we'll call it **annoyance or aggressiveness**. Waggle the right kind of fly in a trout's face long enough, and it'll sometimes attack to defend its place in the stream bottom pecking order or just to get rid of the darn thing.*

# Characteristics of a Good Fly

Dave Whitlock's,  
*Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods*



**Size** - The length, width, and thickness of a natural aquatic food or the imitation of this food. Generally, the exact length is most important to imitate with the smallest foods (1/8" to 1/2"), then width and thickness becomes more important as overall size increases (over 1/2").

**Action** - The movement or degree of movement of a natural or imitation including its own muscular movement and what the water or entrainment on the water gives it. The imitation when fished is given proper live imitative action by the angler's manipulation of cast, rod, line, leader, general design or shape of imitation and water's movement. Action thus depicts living movement, vulnerability, and proper attitude of the imitation to a trout.

**Texture** - The overall *feel*, softness or rigidity of a natural or imitation. Each natural food has a particular identifiable texture or *feel* when touched or bitten by a trout. So an imitation of such foods should have the same general feel. The tying material considered or used for an imitation should be chosen with the same feel or texture. Very hard or very soft imitations seldom fall into this realistic texture range.

**Shape** — The overall outline or silhouette of an aquatic trout food within its *three dimensional size*. Shape should be considered closely when fly imitation designing is done. The best or most versatile imitations usually have the more impressionistic shapes which give the idea of many possible aquatic trout foods.

**Color** - Natural aquatic trout foods have distinctive shades and tones of many colors as well as specific *patterns* of these colors. Normally, exact duplication of chroma or color is not necessary because even within a common group of naturals there will be wide variations in shades and tones of these colors. Imitations usually are effective if they are generally color pattern imitative.

# Ant

Ants are terrestrial, but some develop wings at mating time in July and August and appear over water in large numbers. Wingless ants may fall on to the water if a nest is near a river-bank. When on the water, their weight and spread legs ensure that they rest in the film, neither floating on the surface nor sinking.

The ant body is generally black or brown or more rarely, red.

There are probably as many ant patterns as there are materials with which ants are tied. The simple version shown is perhaps one of the easiest to tie. Never underestimate the value of an ant pattern in your fly box.



## Materials:

Hook: Tiemco 100 or any dry fly hook

Body: Black fur of your choosing. Small flies should use a buildup of tying thread.

Legs: Dry fly hackle to match the size of the fly.

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook and lay a thread the length of the hook shank.
2. Return the thread to the bend of the hook and build a mound of fur on the rear third of the hook.
3. Tie in the hackle in front of the rear mound of fur and bring the thread forward to a point one-third the length of the hook shank behind the eye.
4. Make several wraps of hackle keeping the legs sparse. Tie off the hackle at a point one-third the length of the shank behind the eye.
5. Build a smaller mound of fur in front of the hackle.
6. Tie off and whip finish.

## Variations:

Various colored ants can be tied – red, cinnamon or combination of black and cinnamon.

## Fishing:

The ant is usually fished in the surface film, but fish will take it in the water column.

## Notes:

# Beetle

In addition to the range of water beetles, there are scores of species of terrestrials beetles, some of which sometimes fall on the surface of rivers and lakes. The permutations of size, color, and shape of these are almost endless.

There are a lot of different ties for the beetle that can be found in books and on the internet. This particular pattern was tied for the Ozark Fly Fishers by Chris Conat, student, professional guide and employee of Hargrove's Fly Shop here in St. Louis. Go to [www.ozarkflyfishers.org](http://www.ozarkflyfishers.org) to find other beetle patterns.

## Materials:

Hook: Dai Riki 060 nymph hook size 12 - 18  
Thread: Black 6/0 or Ultra 70  
Foam: 2mm Black cross cut  
Body Dubbing: Black Peacock SLF Prism  
Legs: Black Flex Floss  
Indicator: 2mm yellow or chartreuse cross cut foam

## Tying Instructions:

1. Start your thread on the hook in the middle of the hook shank. Cut a piece of black foam approximately 1 inch long and 1/4 inch wide. Place the foam on top of the hook shank and secure the foam to the hook, while winding your thread back to the standard tie-in position. The foam you use will extend over the bend of the hook.
2. With the Prism dubbing, dub about three inches of thread. Wind the dubbing forward towards the eye of the hook. Try to give the body of your fly around figure like a real beetle would have. Leave one eyelet length clear at the front of the hook shank to tie off your foam and tie in the rubber legs and indicator.
3. Fold your foam over the top of the dubbing and tie it in. Be careful to not pull down too hard on the thread or you will cut right through the foam. The rest of your thread wraps will be at the point where you tied off your foam.
4. Cut two one inch lengths of rubber legs and place them both on top of the foam. Wrap over the rubber legs five times. Pull the legs to opposite sides of the hook shank. You want the legs to end up on the side of the hook shank. That way you get the best action out of the bug.
5. Cut a piece of bright foam (color preference is up to you) that is slightly thinner than the black foam. The fish will not see this piece. Tie in your indicator on top of the black foam. Whip finish the fly at the same spot where you tied in the indicator. Take the fly out of the vise and round off the corner of the foam with your scissors to give the fly a buggy look.



## Variations:

Variations are endless, but usually involve some type of foam.

## Fishing:

This pattern is fished in the surface film as most beetles will ride in this area of the water. It is sometimes helpful to 'plop' this fly on the water to imitate a falling beetle. Also, an occasional slight 'twitch' will attract fish.

## Notes:

# Brassie

This pattern is so named because it was first tied using brass plated wire. It was developed in 1960 for use on the Colorado's South Platte River. The pattern was developed in collaboration by Ken Chandler, Tug Davenport and Gene Lynch. The pattern was developed as a midge imitation.

This is an old pattern with a variety of styles. The important part of the Brassie is the wire wrapped around the hook. The head is simply included to make the fly tier believe he tied a fly rather than simply wrapped a hook in wire. The fish don't seem to mind if the Brassie has a head or not. The fly sinks quickly to fishable depths and once there reflects light in a soft glow.



## Materials:

Hook: Standard scud or 200R Size 8 - 20

Body: Fine to Medium copper wire

Thorax: Peacock Herl

Thread: 8/0 to match body color

## Tying Instructions:

1. Take a piece of copper wire, and start to wind it up the shank of the hook. Don't worry about leaving a small tag end; we will take care of that later. Secure the tail end of the wire between your fingers.
2. Continue winding the wire forward until you are a couple of wraps short of the eye of the hook. Use your fingernail to push the wire wraps snugly together. You may need to add an extra wrap.
3. Tie in your thread at the eye of the hook, and tie off the excess wire. Tie in 2 or 3 strands of peacock herl. Wrap the peacock herl around the tying thread to give the herl more strength.
4. Wrap the peacock around the shank of the hook a few times to form the head of the fly. Tie off the herl, and add a whip finish to the Brassie. Add a dab of head cement to secure the thread. You will now need to take care of the tail end of the wire. You can either use a pair of wire cutters to snip the wire close to the hook shank, or just bend the wire around the hook a couple times. You should add some flex cement to the wires of the fly to secure them firmly.

## Variations:

The Brassie can be tied in almost any color and is only limited by the different colors of wire available. It is also tied without the peacock collar and with a dubbing fur collar. Some fishermen on the White River in Arkansas use lead wire as a substitute for the copper. A permanent marking pen is used to give the brassie color.

## Fishing:

The Brassie is usually fished under an indicator.

## Notes:

# Caddis Larva

This is a great caddis larva pattern that was found in the *Fly Tyer Magazine*. The pattern is excellent to imitate the caddis larva found in our parks, but especially in the Current River.

## Materials:

Hook: Scud size 16 or 18  
Thread: Black 6/0  
Body: Any good green caddis dubbing – add some green ice dubbing  
Ribbing: Small or X-small black wire  
Thorax: Black squirrel dubbing with the guard hairs included  
Carapace: Thin Skin – Speckled green  
Color: Black marker

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook and lay a thread base from the eye to a point down the bend of the hook.
2. Cut a piece of thin skin about 1/8" wide and tie it in at the bend.
3. Tie in the small black wire ribbing.
4. Starting at the bend, dub a body 2/3 of the way down the shank. About 1/3 of the shank behind the eye should be without dubbing.
5. Bring the thin skin forward and mark the thorax area on the underside with the black permanent marker. Mark only the area of the thin skin that will cover the thorax.
6. Tie off the thin skin over the body area only.
7. Bring the wire ribbing forward and tie it off just in front of the body and under the thin skin (in the thorax area).
8. Dub the thorax area with the black squirrel making sure the guard hair stand out to imitate legs.
9. Bring the remaining thin skin (colored black) over the thorax. Form a head and tie off. Cement, if so desired.



## Variations:

This caddis larva imitation can also be tie in a tan, brown or amber. Identify the color of the caddis larvae in the stream you are going to fish and imitate accordingly.

## Fishing:

The fly can be fished deep as the point fly on a shot and indicator rig or as the lone fly on a shot and indicator rig. The fly should be fished deep.

## Notes:

# Copper John

The Copper John was originated by John Barr a well known fly tier and fly fisherman. John wanted a pattern that could be used in swift water. He was looking for a pattern that contained many of the elements of a good fly, yet he was looking for something that got to the bottom quickly. The bead head, wire body and bead of epoxy all give this fly weight and determines it's sink rate.



## Materials:

Hook: Mustad 9671 or equivalent sizes 10 – 16  
Weight: Copper Bead to size of hook  
Thread: 8/0 Black  
Thorax: Peacock Herl  
Wing Pad: Mylar Tinsel covered with a drop of epoxy  
Legs: Pheasant Tail Fibers  
Tail: Brown Goose Biots  
Body: Copper Wire (Copper, Red and Chartreuse suggested)

## Tying Instructions:

1. Slide the bead over the barb of the hook so that the large hole side faces the bend
2. Mount the hook in the vise. Make four or five turns of lead wire around the shank. Slide the lead into the bead. Start the thread and secure the lead inside the bead.
3. Attach the copper wire and secure the wire with the thread to the bend of the hook. Return the thread to the middle of the hook.
4. Make one or two turns of wire around the hook at the bend (the turns will be used to separate the tail).
5. Mount the tail along each side of the hook shank. Secure the tail against the one or two turns of wire. The tails should be divided as they lie along the hook and wire. Return the thread to a point where the thorax will be tied in.
6. Wind the wire along the shank to form the body of the fly. Tie off the wire at the point where the thorax will start. Clip the wire. Bring the thread forward to a point near the bead.
7. Tie in a piece of Mylar tinsel at the eye. Tie it back to the beginning of the wire body with the trailing end towards the bend.
8. Tie in pheasant tail fibers with the ends hanging over the eye of the hook. (These will be pulled back to form legs.) Clip the pheasant tail fiber butts at the Mylar.
9. Tie in one or two strands of peacock herl. Wrap the peacock herl from the Mylar to the eye of the hook to form the thorax. Tie off and clip.
10. Separate the pheasant tail fibers, pulling a bunch to each side of the hook towards the bend and tie them down to form legs.
11. Bring the Mylar over the peacock herl to form the wing pad. Tie down; whip finish and cement, if desired. Trim the pheasant tail legs to size.
12. Mix a small patch of 5-minute epoxy (Epoxy all flies tied at once). With a tooth pick add a drop of epoxy on top of the Mylar to give an opaque appearance. Let dry. Turning the fly on a wheel will keep the epoxy from running. (Be careful not to use too much epoxy or it will run onto the peacock herl.)

## Variations:

The Copper John can be tied using various shades of wire. The colors red, black or chartreuse are especially effective. Variations of the tail include pheasant tail fibers or hackle. (The V-notch hackle method of mounting legs works well.)

## Fishing:

The Copper John is usually fished using an indicator and shot (if necessary). It can be fished very deep using a sinking line when the depth or speed of the water calls for getting down deep and fast. Because of its weight, it can also be used as the top fly in a two fly rig. Whether fishing with or without an indicator the beauty of this fly is that it is heavy and will sink quickly.

## Notes:

# Crackle Back

"Without question, the CRACKLEBACK is the most popular fly from my personally developed collection of trout fly. In the early 1960's I named the fly after a bass plug made by Bill Walters of Jasonville, Ind. It too had a pale olive body with a crinkly-green back." patterns – Ed Story (deceased) of Feather-Craft.



## Materials:

Hook: Mustad 94840 (size #10 - original) or TMC 5210  
Crackle Back: Two strands peacock herl  
Thread: Danville 6/0 prewaxed, color #100 black  
Body: Light Cahill or Spectrun #20  
Hackle: India Furnace saddle hackle, or Furnace neck hackle for small sizes

## Tying Instructions:

1. Tie the thread in and run it to the end of the hook-shank.
2. Select a long narrow India "furnace saddle hackle. Size and prepare it, then tie it in at the end of the hook-shank, dull-side facing you.
3. Tie in 2-strands of peacock herl at the end and on top of the hook-shank.
4. Starting at the bend, dub on the body material the full length of the shank. Other body materials can be used with the latest being turkey quill.
5. Lay the two strands of peacock herl over the top of the fly body and tie in behind the hook eye. Do not pull the peacock strands too tight as we are going to wrap the hackle over them. Leave a tiny amount of slack in the herl.
6. Palmer-wrap the furnace saddle hackle forward in wide-wraps (5-6) so plenty of fly body color shows thru the wraps. And notice because we used a furnace hackle, the fly body automatically has a black rib. Tie the hackle in just behind the hook-eye; finish the fly head and whip-finish.

## Variations:

Although more correctly a Dry Woolly, body material can consist of many colors of dubbing or holograph. Green holograph makes an excellent body.

## Fishing:

"...Dress the fly with silicone-gel and fished as a "dry" as intended. If the fly sinks in fast water, it's simply "skipped" under the surface with the rod tip. On the next cast, it'll float again. Frankly, this is the method used by most fly fishers. Fish it as a dry, if you don't get a hit... jerk the fly under and skip it along with your rod tip." – Ed Story (deceased) of Feather-Craft. The Crackle Back can also be weighted and fished deep normally with a weight sinking line.

## Notes:

# Elk Hair Caddis

The Elk Hair Caddis was originated by Al Troth. It is an extremely versatile fly that has found its way into every fly fisherman's fly box and takes fish in every trout stream.

## Materials:

Hook: Mustad 94840 or equivalent, size 10-20  
Thread: 8/0 Tan or Brown  
Ribbing: Fine gold or copper wire (optional)  
Hackle: Brown, ginger or cream  
Body: Dry fly dubbing (tan, cream, brown, olive, gray) or hair's ear fur  
Wing: Elk hair (or deer hair on size 16 or smaller flies)

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook and attach thread.
2. Tie in wire on top of the hook bringing thread to the rear of the hook.
3. Dub the body leaving the front 1/4 of the hook shank bare. Tie in hackle at the front of the dubbed body (shiny side to the rear). Wrap hackle palmer style to the rear; tie down with two turns of wire. Then counter-wrap wire forward through hackle. Tie down the wire with thread and trim. Trim the excess hackle at tail.
4. Move thread to front of body. Clean and stack hair, placing wing over body so wing tips are even with the rear of the hook. Pinch wing, take two loose turns of thread over wing, and then pull straight down on the thread.
5. Take a tight turn of thread over the wing. While maintaining downward pressure on the thread, push your thumbnail straight down on the wing tie-down spot, making the wing flair a bit over both sides of the body. Take another turn of thread over the wing, then lift up the front of the wing and take two turns of thread in front of the wing. Make these turns tight under the wing stub.
6. Hold the wing stub out of the way; whip finish the head, then trim the wing and cement the head and wing tie-down area. Others prefer to trim the wing stub, and then whip finish.



## Variations:

The two most important body colors for the Elk Hair Caddis are brown and cream with matching hackle, which will give you a light caddis and a dark caddis imitation. Some tiers leave out the hackle and float this fly with just the wing.

## Fishing:

Fish the Elk Hair Caddis as you would any other dry fly. It also can be fished in the surface film or deep in the water column. Caddis flies usually do not lay their eggs on the water, but swim to the bottom or under water to deposit the eggs.

Notes:

# John Deere

The John Deere is a simple jig that is probably best known at Bennett Springs State Park. The jig will appear every year on the Weaver web site as one of the top flies (jig) for the year. If you like to jig fish or want to use this as the weight fly on a two fly rig, it is a good pattern to have in your fly box.



## Materials:

Hook: Jig hook of the size and weight desired.  
Thread: Olive 8/0  
Head: The head is green with a rather large yellow eye.  
Tail: Olive marabou fibers  
Body: Olive chenille

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook, lay a base of thread.
2. Cut a section of marabou and fan out the loose fibers. Starting behind the eye tie the marabou the length of the hook shank so as to have an even or smooth body.
3. Starting at the bend, tie on the chenille so that the rope hangs over the tail. Form an even body over the tag end and tie it off behind the eye.
4. Wrap the chenille forward in nice even turns. Do not overlap the turns. Tie off the chenille behind the eye and whip finish.

## Fishing:

Fish the John Deere under an indicator imparting some motion with a twitch of the rod tip. Or, fish it as a jig without an indicator.

## Notes:

# Glo Ball / Glo Bug

The Glo-Bug originates from The Bug Shop, Anderson, California. The Glo-Ball is a great attractor pattern and although it is often the object of ridicule, it does work.

## Materials:

Hook: Tiemco 2487 or 2488 size 12-18  
Jig hook 1/80  
Thread: Kevlar or GSP  
Body: Glo Ball Yarn or McFlyFoam



## Tying Instructions:

1. Place hook in vice and attach thread near eye of hook.
2. Apply a drop of superglue.
3. Pinch your yarn with the secondary color to be the dot on the top and hold over the top of the hook.
4. Bring the thread up through your pinching fingers, over the top and down the other side and pull the thread down which should pull the yarn down out of your fingers and onto the hook.
5. Carefully apply one more wrap of thread over the existing wrap to make two turns in total. Don't let the yarn twist around the hook as you do this and ensure that the second wrap is placed exactly over the top of the first wrap.
6. Apply one more (the 3rd) wrap of thread around the eye side of the hook.
7. Pinch the yarn up away from the hook and do two wraps on the top of the hook around the base of the yarn where it is now tied to the hook.
8. Apply one more wrap around the eye side of the hook.
9. Apply a little superglue to the thread and whip finish and cut thread.
10. Pinch the yarn upwards - rolling between your fingers to get nice and straight.
11. Use very sharp scissors to make a single cut as low down as you can without cutting the thread on top of the yarn.
12. If you have a rotating vice spin over and add a drop of superglue for good strength - superglue is meant to dissolve in water but certainly seems to last long enough to give the fly more of a life span.
13. Tease the yarn down into a ball.

## Variations:

The Glo-Ball can also be tied on a jig hook and can then be fished without added weight. The Glo-Ball is fished in many colors and color combinations. Experiment with colors and color combinations. There are over 38 different colors of Glo-Bug yarn available.

## Fishing:

The Glow ball should be fished under an indicator and makes a great point fly on a point dropper rig – especially if the Glow ball is tied on a jig hook.

## Notes:

# Golden Ribbed Hare's Ear

The Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear is a fly with origins way back beyond the last century. Whether fished as a nymph or an emerger, it is an excellent medium olive or dark olive copy, and as a general impressionist nymph and dun it probably has no peer. It was originally tied without a hackle, with merely the thorax fibers picked out for legs. The wings were a late-nineteenth century addition.

The GRHE has been attributed to James Ogden and was popularized by Fredrick Halford. Although Halford later discarded the fly because it did not imitate or match any insect known at the time, many writers over the years have described the wingless version as one of the best-ever nymph-suggesting imitations.

## Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3906B or equivalent, 1XL, size 8-20 (12-18 most common)

Thread: 8/0 brown or match body color

Tail: Hare's Ear Guard hairs

Ribbing: Oval or flat gold tinsel

Abdomen: Blended hare's mask fur - lighter

Wing case: Turkey tail segment - Mottled

Thorax: Blended hare's mask fur, picked out to suggest legs - darker



## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook and attach thread.
2. Tie in tail and ribbing.
3. Dub abdomen on rear 1/2 of the hook.
4. Wrap ribbing forward, tie off, and trim excess.
5. Tie in wing case material
6. Dub front 1/2 of body, leaving room to tie off wing case and finish head.
7. Pull wing case over front of body, tie down, and trim excess.
8. Pick out dubbing to suggest legs.
9. Whip finish and cement head.

## Variations:

It can be tied in olive, tan or cream colors. It is also tied flash back with a strip of mylar.

## Fishing:

The fly can be fished deep as the top fly on a shot and indicator rig or as the lone fly on a shot and indicator rig. It can also be fished as an emerger pattern using a Wet Fly Swing. The G.R.H.E. is a good prospecting pattern that should be in all serious fly fishers box, especially when crawling and clinging mayflies are on the stream.

Notes:

# Griffith Gnat

George Griffith is one of the founding fathers of Trout Unlimited, the international angling and conservation, and the earliest TU meetings happened in his house on the Au Sable River, near Grayling. The Griffith's gnat works magic on Michigan Rivers and many other rivers as well. But there's a bit of a mystery surrounding the Griffith's gnat's true heritage. Some say George Griffith invented it. Some say he worked with a friend to invent it, but did not actually tie the first one himself. Some say a friend of Griffith's invented it and just named it after him. Some say Griffith himself denied inventing it.

Griffith's Gnat is the most effective adult midge pattern ever tied, period.

## Materials:

Hook: TMC 100BL  
Thread: Black  
Body: Peacock Herl  
Hackle: Grizzly

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook in the vise and build a thread base on the shank to the bend.
2. Tie on an appropriately sized Grizzly Hackle at the bend.
3. Bring the thread forward and tie on peacock herl (number of herl depend upon the size of the fly) to the bend of the hook. Bring the thread forward to a point one eye length behind the eye.
4. Wrap the peacock herl forward and tie off. (Some tiers like to make a rope of the thread and peacock herl).
5. Palmer the Grizzly hackle forward and tie off.
6. Form a head and whip finish. Cement, if so desired.



## Fishing:

Griffith's Gnat can be fished as either an impressionistic searching pattern or as a realistic imitation when matching the hatch. This fly is unique in that it can be fished as an effective imitation of a cluster of emergent midges, as a pair of mating adult midges, or as a solitary adult midge stranded in the water's surface film. Midges spend a good deal of time in the subsurface as larvae and a relatively short time emerging and hatching, but a well-prepared angler can have a field day on dead drifted emerging and adult midge patterns like the Griffith's Gnat. Midges can reside anywhere within an aquatic system so look for activity in all types of water. Faster riffles, runs, current seams, as well as the slower pools, slack water areas, eddies, and pocket water below and near the higher energy portions of a river, stream, or spring creek can all produce excellent midge hatches. Midges often move to slightly slower waters prior to and during emergence and subsequent hatching. Fish this fly on a drag free dead drift, and in slower water, be sure to present the fly delicately and be careful not to disturb holding fish. When imitating a mating pair of adult midges, give this fly a few twitches once it's riding on the water's surface film; simply moving the rod tip up and down a few times will produce a realistic lifelike movement that trout can't resist.

## Notes:

# Jujubee Midge



The pattern was first tied by Charlie Craven in his Denver area fly shop - [Charlie's Fly Box](#). Charlie is known as an innovative tier and has developed other successful patterns. This pattern was developed to take finicky trout on tail waters, but will work wherever trout are found. The pattern and accompanying story can be found in the December 2005, *Fly Fisherman* magazine.

The Jujubee Midge has also proven to be a very effective pattern when fished in the streams of Missouri.

## Materials:

Hook: #18 - #24 Tiemco 2488 Dai-Riki 125  
Thread: White 10/0 or smaller for the body and Black 8/0 or smaller for the thorax.  
Abdomen: Super Hair, three strands  
Wing Buds: Fluoro Fibre from Wing Case  
Wing Case: White Umpqua Fluoro Fibre  
Thorax: Black thread

## Tying Instructions:

1. Attach white thread one eye length back from the hook eye and tie in three strands of Super Hair.
2. The Super Hair does not need to be attached in any specific order. (Recommend tying the Super Hair on the side of the hook.)
3. Wrap back over the Super Hair to about halfway down the hook bend and then wrap forward to the starting point.
4. Twist the thread to keep the underbody flat, slim and smooth. [Remember, twisting counter clockwise will flatten the thread.]
5. Before wrapping the abdomen, pull the three strands of Super Hair straight up to get them on top of the thread base.
6. Wrap all three strands of Super Hair forward in tight, touching turns to the thread tie-in point and tie them off. [Hint: As the SH is wrapped, it tends to wrap around itself. As you make each turn, give the bundle a slight turn to the right.]
7. Clip the butt end of the Super Hair. Whip-finish the white thread and clip the tag end.
8. Attach the black thread over the location of the thorax. Tie in a dozen Fluoro Fibre filaments over the front edge of the abdomen.
9. Build a bulging thorax of black thread over the front 20% of the hook shank. [Use the hook point as a reference point.] Leave an empty space one eye length directly behind the hook eye.
10. Pull the Fluoro Fibre over the thorax and tie it down with two tight wraps behind the hook eye.
11. Divide the Fluoro Fibre into two equal clumps. Pull one half back along the far side of the hook and bind it in place with two turns of thread. Pull the remaining strands back along the near side and bind them down as well.
12. Build a smooth thread head to cover the tie-down area. Whip-finish and clip the remaining strands of Fluoro Fibre so they are the same length as the thorax.

## Variations:

The Jujubee can be tied with various combinations of Super Hair. Olive/black (two strands of olive with a single strand of black). Brown/black, red/black and black/red are good combinations. Also, the Jujubee can be tied with a single color of Super Hair. Another technique is to use a colored thread under body with clear Super Hair allowing the colored thread to show through.

## Fishing:

The pattern can be fished deep under an indicator; as a dropper under a dry fly; or, without an indicator using the wet fly swing.

## Notes:

# Kruse Leech

The Kruse Leech was originated by Mike Kruse, Missouri Department of Conservation. The author was fortunate enough to have dinner with Mike and able to confirm the story as to the origin of the leech. It seems that Mike was planning to fish the Crane Creek. The night before the trip he sat down to tie some Woolly Buggers, but found he didn't have the right hackle. He substituted mohair for the hackle and used the new fly successfully on the stream the next day.

## Materials:

Hook: 2XL or 3XL Nymph size 8-14  
Thread: 8/0 - color to match mohair  
Thread: 8/0 Olive (or match mohair color)  
Tail: Marabou – color to match mohair  
Body: Mohair yarn  
Weight: Lead wire or tungsten bead (optional)



## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount hook. Tie on the thread laying a base the length of the shank. Return the thread to the eye of the hook with wide spiral turns.
2. Prepare and mount the marabou tail starting at the head. The marabou should cover the length of the shank to allow for an even body. The tail should be 1-1/2 or 2 times the length of the shank. (Optional - one or two strands of flash-a-bou will add some attraction.)
3. Tie on a length of marabou (olive, black or brown) and secure it the length of the shank. Again, the body of the fly should have an even appearance. Return the thread to the eye of the hook using wide spiral wraps.
4. With your fingers, stroke the loose hanging fibers of mohair perpendicular to the mohair core. As you wind the mohair up the shank, be sure to keep as many fibers free as possible. This will give the leech a hairy look the entire length of the shank. (Hint - double the strand of mohair to give the body a fuller look.)
5. Tie off the mohair, trim and cement, if desired.

## Variations:

The Kruse Leech can be tied in a number of shades of mohair. Perhaps the most successful are olive, black, rusty brown and blond. The blond mohair used to tie this fly is a special dyed mohair that can be found at [Tommy Hargrove's Fly Shop](#) on Manchester in Saint Louis, Missouri.

## Fishing:

The fly can be fished deep under and indicator or stripped. Twitching motion often brings good eats.

## Notes:

# Marabou Jigs

The marabou name comes from the marabou stork found in South Africa. Lacy Gee, the original founder of Wapsi, was the first to sell turkey marabou as a substitute for the feathers from the marabou stork.

Lacey had been a fly tier since his boyhood in the 20' s. In the late 30's, he did a short stint as a turkey farmer where he first saw the similarity between a certain turkey feather and the African stork marabou he had been buying to tie salmon flies.

In 1946, John Dick, a friend of Lacey' s, stopped by Wapsi in Independence, Iowa. He was broke and asked to borrow \$100.00. John was from Colfax, Iowa where they had a turkey processing plant. Lacey instructed John as to where the marabou was located on the bird. He gave him two mailbags and told him to make a deal with the plant and fill the bags for the \$100.00. Colfax Feather was the business started by these two bags of feathers. At one time John had negotiated contracts to pick up feathers at 18 different processing plants.

Most turkeys at this time were grown on farms and then taken to a processing plant. Shortly after WWII larger commercial operations started. In fact, E. J. Schmuecker (Tom Schmuecker's father) had one of the first state-of-the-art hen houses for hybrid fowl.

The U.S. is the only country that produces white turkeys. China buys container loads of white turkey feathers looking for the large feathers that can be made into boas. The strung blood quill, wooly bugger marabou, flats and t-base feathers are by-products of the boa business



## Materials:

Hook: Jig hook 1/80 – 1/100

Thread: Color of the dominate shade of marabou

Body: Marabou (Blood marabou works well)

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the jig in the vise with the eye down.
2. Lay a base of thread approximately half way down the shank of the hook.
3. Pull a hunk of marabou from the stem and mount it to the hook. If multiple colors of marabou are to be used, be sure that you remember that the fly will ride with the eye up.
4. Continue to tie on marabou until the fly has a full body (Do not overload the fly with marabou.)

## Variations:

Various colors and color combinations can be used to tie the Marabou Jig. Some of the favorites are all black, all white, all sculpin or all pink. Color combinations include, but not limited to, black over yellow, sculpin over peach, and olive over white.

## Fishing:

To achieve the proper effect, cast and allow the jig to sink for a few moments. Then retrieve the jig at a slow rate while simultaneously and rapidly twitching your rod tip up and down. Many trout fisherman jig fish exclusively and can't imagine why anyone would consider fishing any other way. And with the success they enjoy, it's hard to argue with them. There are also those that prefer to fish these jigs under a bobber or strike indicator, just giving the lure an occasional twitch. Using this method will work better with a smaller jig -- sometimes called micro jigs -- and fished very close to the bottom. Cast upstream, and allow the lure to drift back toward you, passing as many fish as possible.

Notes:

# Parachute Dry Flies

The term parachute fly is given to flies in which the hackle is tied round a projection affixed to the top of the hook shank near the eye so that the hackle lies horizontally across the hook which it covers in the manner of an open umbrella. The weight of the hook underneath the circular hackle balances the fly which falls lightly on the water parachute fashion. Various patterns are tied in the parachute style and a Scottish tackle firm was the first to commercially market these flies a long time ago. It is not certain who invented them but an American called William Brush of Detroit applied for an American patent for the idea in 1931 and it was granted in 1934. The patent related to the projection on the hook and not the fly itself.

The parachute was popularized by Swisher and Richards in their book *Selective Trout*.

## Parachute Adams

Adams Parachute - Harold Hinsdill Smedley, in his book, *Fly Patterns and Their Origins* (Westshore Publications, 1943) credits Leonard Hallady of Michigan with creating the Adams fly in 1922 (Traditional Catskill Tie). When German brown trout were introduced into the Boardman River in order to compensate for the loss of native grayling and brook trout, Hallady tied a pattern he hoped would be effective with the finicky browns. He gave one of his new flies to his friend, Judge Charles Adams, who fished it and returned to Hallady, declaring the new fly "a knock-out." By 1934, the Adams fly was patented by William Avery Bush of Detroit, Michigan, and sold commercially. In the early part of the twentieth century, mass production of fishing tackle in the United States was a booming business, and many lures, flies, and other equipment that had been made formerly by hand in small quantities were patented and manufactured in factories. The Adams fly became widely available.



## Cream or Cahill Parachute

This fly became noteworthy at the Ozark Fly Fishers Bennett Springs Catch-N-Release outing in 2008. Mike Swederska, Ozark Fly Fishers, tied and fished the fly with great success. (The author has also fished this fly at Roaring River with a lot of success.) There was a hatch of small cream colored mayflies that had fish rising everywhere in the stream - especially above the damn. This fly is a must for your fly box, if fishing Bennett Springs. Variations of this fly are also effective in the other State Parks and Ozark streams.



## Materials:

Hook: Temico 101 size 16 - 22  
Thread: 8/0 Cahill  
Tail: Light Ginger or Cream Hackle Fibers  
Body: Cahill Thread  
Hackle: Cream or Light Ginger  
Post: White Turkey Flat or a Para Post Material

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook and attach thread.
2. Mount the post about 1/3 way down the shank.
3. Tie on the hackle fibers for the tail. Use the standard dry fly length for the tail.
4. Build a tapered body to the post.
5. Method 1 - Tie on a light ginger or cream hackle to the shank of the hook. Apply a dab of cream dubbing behind the post and in front of the post. Wrap three or four turns of hackle around the post. Tie off the hackle to the hook shank. Bring the thread behind the eye and form a head.
6. Method 2 - Tie on a light ginger or cream hackle to the shank of the hook. Tie the stem of the hackle up the post. Apply a dab of dubbing behind the post and in front of the post. Wrap three or four turns of hackle down the post and tie the hackle off around the post. Bring the thread to a point behind the eye and form a head.
7. Whip finish or half-hitch and apply cement, if needed.

## Variations:

Various colors can be used to tie the fly. Use a light olive thread and dun hackle to imitate a blue wing olive. Other combinations can be used to tie various imitations.

## Fishing:

Fish the Parachute by greasing up the hackle and post. Keep the silicon off the body, if possible. This will allow the fly to float up in the water column with the body in the surface film. Fish the fly using the traditional up or up-and-across.

## Notes:

# Pheasant Tail Nymph

Frank Sawyer, a river keeper in England, is generally given credit for the Pheasant Tail Nymph. He developed the fly to fish on River Avon in Wiltshire in Southern England. The fly first appeared in his book published in 1958. The original version was made entirely of pheasant tail fibers and wire. The use of peacock herl in the thorax section varies from the original recipe.

It is an impressionist nymph and works well when used to represent the nymphs of the swimming and burrowing variety.

## Materials:

Hook: Tiemco 200R, size 16, 18 and 20  
Tail: Pheasant tail fibers, about 4-6  
Thread: Brown or Camel, 8/0  
Rib: Copper or gold wire  
Body: Pheasant tail fibers  
Legs: Pheasant tail fibers  
Wing case: 8-10 pheasant tail fibers, tied at butt end  
Thorax: Peacock herl



## Tying Instructions:

1. Attach thread with a jamb knot
2. Tie in tail about 3/4 the shank length.
3. Tie in ribbing at the bend.
4. Clip off tip and tie in fibers for the body at the bend.
5. Wrap body up 2/3 of hook shank. First wrap or two behind the wire. Tie off and trim.
6. Wrap ribbing forward (counter wrap to secure the fibers), tie off and trim.
7. Tie in wing case fibers.
8. Tie in the peacock herl and wrap the thorax, tie down.
9. Pull the wing case over the thorax and tie down.
10. Split the thorax fibers evenly, pull them back and tie them in for legs.
11. Whip finish. Cement head if desired.

## Variations:

The Pheasant Tail Nymph can be tie in various colors including olive and black. Mylar can be substituted for the pheasant tail on the wing pad. Adding a metal or glass bead head can also be effective.

## Fishing:

The Pheasant Tail Nymph is usually fished using the shot and indicator technique. However, it can also be fished as an emerger in the surface film using the wet fly swing. If fished as an emerger, use black razor foam for the wing case instead of pheasant tail.

## Notes:

# The Renegade



The Renegade is tied in the "Fore and After" style. It was devised in Wyoming by Taylor 'Beartracks' Williams around the late 1920's. Ernest Hemingway enjoyed fly fishing and is quoted in saying, "Taylor Williams came to work in Sun Valley (Idaho) in 1937 (as hunting and fishing guide). He was an excellent dry fly fisherman. He always said that he was responsible for the renegade fly." Some patterns make us wonder what trout see in them. The renegade is one such pattern. It works in smaller sizes as a mating midge cluster, but also works in larger sizes as an all around dry fly attractor for those times when you feel like fishing a dry but nothing is rising. Midges or gnats are the staple diet of most trout. They have small dark bodies and whitish wings.

Soon after its development the pattern caught on and in no time the Glen L. Evans Company in Boise, Idaho, and Wright and McGill in Denver, Colorado, were tying the fly and promoting it throughout the Rocky Mountain area.

## Materials:

Hook: TMC 100, or equivalent, sizes 10-18  
Body: Peacock Herl  
Thread: White - 8/0  
Front Hackle: White tied on as a collar  
Tip or Tag: Flat gold tinsel (Optional)  
Ribbing: Fine gold wire  
Rear Hackle: Brown tied on as a collar

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook and lay a base of thread to the bend.
2. Tie on the gold tinsel tag at the bend of the hook.
3. Prepare and mount a brown hackle at the bend of the hook - this will be the rear hackle.
4. Make three to five wraps of the brown hackle as a collar at the bend of the hook. Tie off the hackle and cut.
5. Tie on a six inch piece of gold wire. The wire should be tied to the base of the rear hackle.
6. Move the thread to a point about 1/3 the length of the shaft back from the eye.
7. Tie on a clump of peacock herl (the number strands depends upon the size of the fly).
8. Wrap over the peacock herl until the thread reaches the base of the rear hackle.
9. Wrap the thread back to the point on the shank that is about 1/3 the length of the shank from the eye.
10. Gather the gold wire and peacock herl and twist them together making a peacock herl and wire rope.
11. Wrap this rope forward over the shank to the thread (1/3 the length of the shank back from the eye). Tie off the herl and wire and clip.
12. Prepare a white hackle and tie it onto the shank. The hackle stem should be tied against the peacock herl.
13. Wrap the thread to a point on the shank where the fly head will start.
14. Wrap the white hackle as a collar to the hanging thread. Tie off the hackle and clip.
15. Whip finish and cement the head.

## Variations:

There are several variations of the Renegade that are similar, but not the true Renegade fly. The Royal Renegade is tied with red floss in the middle of the body. The Reversed Renegade is tied with the white hackle at the rear and the brown hackle in front. The Double Trouble (Renegade) is tied with a middle white hackle collar. The variations are many and varied.

## Fishing:

The Renegade can be fished similar to the Crackleback. It can be fished completely dry using some type of floatant. It can be fished as an emerger just under the surface of the water. Or, it can be fished dry and then pulled under and stripped at the end of the float. Pick your own poison.

## Notes:

# The Russell Fly

Russell Wall is the originator of this fly and the most phenomenal trout fisherman I have ever witnessed. You'll know this master of the Bennett Spring waters when you see him at work. If you like to see nervous water created by multiple dorsal breaking and torpedoing the surface behind your fly, then tie one on. —Scott Darrough, Ozark Fly Fishers

## Materials:

Hook: Mustad 9672, size 8 - 14  
Thread: 8/0 Olive  
Hackle: Olive Saddle Hackle  
Body: Kreinik Fine (#8) Gold Braid (Note: Crafts stores carry the braid.)



## Tying Instructions:

1. Tie in where hook shank and bend meet. (Note: hackle and braid will also be tied in at this location in the following steps.)
2. Select hackle feather. You will want the barb fibers of the hackle feather when wrapped to be approximately one hook gap in length. The fiber length should be consistent throughout the fly. This is where the saddle hackle works well. Tie in base of hackle at the location mentioned in Step 1 with the colorful, shiny side facing the tier.
3. Unspool approximately 3 1/2 inches of braid. Tie in at the location mentioned in Step 1. Wrap braid to the position just behind where the thread head will be formed. Tie off and clip excess braid.
4. Now wrap the hackle forward, spacing evenly. A size 10 hook will accommodate ten wraps, give or take. Wrap hackle to the position just behind where the thread head will be formed. Tie off, and then trim excess hackle.
5. At this point your thread should be behind the eye. Spiral thread back to the bend of the hook, being careful not to bind fibers to the body. Then spiral wrap thread forward to the tie-off point behind the eye. This is important—binding of the hackle stem prevents the fish's teeth from severing it.
6. Form the fly head. Whip finish twice. Head cement is not necessary.

## Fishing:

Fish this fly aggressively. I usually begin my strip the moment the fly hits the water. I tell people that you can't begin your strip soon enough. Typically these strips are with quick six inch tugs of the line. This will put the fly approximately one to two inches below the surface. If the fly drags on the surface at the beginning of the retrieve, "pop" it under with a good tug of the line hand.

Quite often you will miss fish on the retrieve. If this persists, you may wish to bend the hook gap open slightly. This will result in more hookups.

After approximately ten casts, if no hits, I move downstream about five feet and present again, working my way along the water, looking for fish that are eager to bite.

Experiment at different stripping speeds and depths if need be. Typically a floating line is the rule of thumb. Russell varies his presentations and explains that a sinking line can really slay 'em.

## Notes:

# San Juan Worm

The nymph pattern was first developed on the San Juan River below Navajo Dam in NW New Mexico to imitate the river's large population of aquatic worms. They are generally one inch to two inches long and live in the riverbed itself. They turn up in great numbers if you seine the bottom by turning over rocks or stirring up the muck with your wader boot. They look very much like earthworms or miniature night crawlers (some even having the distinctive collar). They come in a variety of mostly neutral colors. The trout feed on them extensively and find flamboyant colors an added attraction. The trout definitely take the SJW fly pattern to be exactly what it is designed to represent, the worms of the San Juan.

The history of the San Juan Worm, the Tijuana Trico, was difficult to find. We do know that the San Juan River was the impetus for the pattern. According to Scott Sanchez, the fly was invented by Paul Pacheco in the Mid-60's for the reddish-brown aquatic worms below Navajo Dam. The original pattern was tied on an English bait hook with red floss and gold fine wire. It has morphed many times throughout the decades and has never fallen out of favor.



## Materials:

Hook: TMC 300, Size 10 or 12

Thread: To match the body

Body: Ultra Chenille

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the hook in the vise and lay a base of thread to the bend.
2. Tie on the Ultra Chenille at the bend and bring the thread forward
3. Pull the chenille forward and tie it off.
4. Whip finish and add head cement.
5. With a cigarette lighter, slightly burn each end of the chenille. The flame will cause the chenille to come to a point.

## Variations:

Variations: Red, Natural Brown, Pinks, Florescent colors of red, orange and pink. You can weigh the fly by wrapping it with wire or adding a bead before tying on the chenille. As of late the worm has been tied with Diamond Braid and is called the Dynamite Worm. Look for the article on the Ozark web site under Education/Techniques about when and how to fish different colors of the worm.

## Fishing Techniques:

Dead drift near the bottom with the indicator or tight line presentations. Bright colors are good during periods of high water.

## Notes:

# Scuds

Scuds are members of the class Crustacea, order Amphipoda. Scuds' are distant cousins to the crayfish, sow bugs and shrimp. The beauty of fly fishing with scud imitation flies is that you can use them at any time of the year. They are always available as food for fish even when other insect availability is limited. They are an ideal pattern to use during those non-hatch periods of early spring, late Fall/Autumn and low light conditions of very early morning and late evening. Scientists have identified over 90 different species in the fresh waters of the USA. There is a greater diversity of scud species in the Midwestern and Eastern states compared with the Western states. They are good general scud patterns for catching fish all over the world. Newly hatched young scuds look like smaller versions of the adults. As the young grow they molt their skin (exoskeleton) five to nine times before reaching adulthood. Adults continue to molt another 15 to 20 times during their life as they grow. The time periods between molts can be anything from three days to around 40 days. It depends on the species, availability of food and water temperature. Most species mate and lay eggs anytime between spring and late summer one to fifteen times in the same season. The frequency depends again on the species, availability of food and water temperature. The normal life span of a scud is normally one year but they can live for two years.



## Materials

Hook: Dai-Riki 135, Tiemco 2457 or equivalent, size 12-20 - Preferred #16  
Thread: 8/0 Olive or match body color  
Tail/Antenna: Pheasant tail fiber tips  
Rib: 5X mono  
Shellback: 1/8 inch clear plastic material or Thin Skin - Fly Speck Black/Clear  
Body: Sow-Scud Dubbing Watery-Olive #290

## Tying Instructions

1. Fasten a hook in the vise and attach thread.
2. Tie in tail (about 4-5 fibers) and bring the thread to one eye length behind the eye.
3. Tie on the front antenna (about 4-5 fibers).
4. Tie on the mono to be used for ribbing.
5. Tie on the shell back.
6. Dub body leaving room for shellback, mono, tie-down and head.
7. Tie off dubbing.
8. Pull over shellback and tie down. Do not trim off the shellback, yet.
9. Bring ribbing forward and trim. Trim the shellback at this time.
10. Whip finish and cement the head, if desired.

## Variations

Scuds come in a wide range of colors. A good rule of thumb is, darker the water the darker the coloration of the scuds. Translucent scuds have a chameleon like quality. During times of low weed growth the scuds will be pale in color. As the weeds grow, scuds are able to change color to match their surroundings. Scuds lose the ability to camouflage themselves effectively as they near the end of their lives. The coloration tends to become various tones of yellow orange. Scuds with an orange colored spot in the middle of their body, are pregnant females. The orange spot is the brood pouch, or Marsupium. In some Trout stomach samples you will see orange colored scuds. This is not their natural color. When a scud dies the natural coloration disappears, the orange color is due to the presence of Carotene. Carotene transfers to the fish during the digestive process and leads to the beautiful pink flesh.

## Fishing Techniques

When moving through water, scuds move very slowly. Use a dead-drift presentation in a stream; a bit faster in lakes, such as a slow hand-twist retrieve. This fly is quick and easy to tie so don't hesitate to work it around sunken brush surrounding your favorite trout lake. The scud is best fished using a shot and indicator or fished as the dropper on a two fly rig.

Notes:

# Soft Hackles



Also called a Hackle Fly, North Country Fly, Stewart Spider, or Yorkshire Spider, these flies were first mentioned in Dame Juliana Berners' 1496 *Treatise of Fishing with an Angle*. [Historians believe this to be what we now call the Partridge & Orange] Likely their history extends even farther back than that. But it wasn't until Sylvester Nemes' 1975 *The Soft-Hackled Fly* that they began to receive the attention they deserve in the United States, and became known in general as "soft-hackle" flies. (Incidentally, *The Soft Hackled Fly* was updated in 2006 as *The Soft-Hackled Fly and Tiny Soft Hackles*; I highly recommend both the original book and the update for their history, fly patterns, and ideas.)

## Materials:

Hook: TMC 102Y, size 17 or TMC 100, size 16  
Thread: Uni-Thread, black  
Body: Kreinik Metallic Thread or Wapsi Mini Sparkle Braid  
Collar: Black Superfine Dubbing  
Wing: Pearl Midge Flash  
Soft Hackle: Whiting Brahma Hen Saddle, Partridge or soft hen hackle

## Tying Instructions [For the Anna K shown above]:

1. Mount the hook
2. Start thread and lay a base the length of the shank.
3. At about 1/3 of the shank length behind the eye, tie on a piece of the Kreinik body material and secure it with thread wraps to a point on the shank above the barb.
4. Bring the thread to the front of the hook. Wrap the Kreinik body material forward to a point about 1/3 of the shank length behind the eye and tie off. Clip the excess body material
5. Using the black superfine dubbing, create a small ball of dubbing in front of the body material. This ball of dubbing will help flair the hackle.
6. Tie on a few strands of Pearl Midge Flash directly in front of the dubbing ball for wings. Clip the strands the length of the shank.
7. Prepare and tie on the soft hackle. Make one or two wraps of soft hackle and tie off. Make a couple of wraps of thread over the hackle back towards the ball of dubbing to further flair the soft hackle
8. Form a nice head, whip finish and cement.

## Variations:

The Anna K can be tied using various colors of Kreinik Thread (can be found at most Yarn Shops), but the most effective seems to be olive, black and yellow.

The most basic version of the soft-hackle fly consists of a hook shank wrapped with thread, floss, or peacock herl and a hackle (partridge, grouse, hen or some other soft-hackled bird) wound around the forward part of the shank. Here the hackle suggests the legs or emergent wings of various insects such as caddis or mayflies. Slightly more elaborate versions include a small thorax of dubbed fur just behind the hackle. Others —often more specifically imitative of a mayfly nymph—will sport a tail and perhaps a body of dubbed fur, in which case the fly is often referred to as a soft-hackle nymph or "flymph," a type popularized by Leisenring and Hidy. However you tie it, the soft hackle wet fly deserves an honored place in your fly box.

## Fishing Techniques:

The fly can be fished in a dead drift cast upstream, or as a down-and-across "wet fly" sort of presentation. When doing the down-across on a stream creek, cast while standing on one bank across to the opposite bank and allow the fly to cross through the flow back to near side. If you get a hit after a few casts, take a step downstream and do it all again.

## Notes:

# Thread Jigs

There seems to be very little information available as to the source of the Thread Jig. It is known that Jigs flies, with a compact lead ball on the hook, began to be used approximately 30 years ago on the Traun River in Austria. These flies apparently were similar to what is now known as the Czech Nymph.

## Materials:

Hook: Jig hook with the head the color of the thread. (1/80, 1/100 or 1/124 oz.)

Thread: Color of the fly.



## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the jig in a vise.
2. Wrap the thread up and down the shank to form a tapered body.
3. Tie off the thread and cement head, if desired

## Variations:

Variations are in the size of the jig head to the color of the thread. For faster water use a larger jig head. Two excellent colors are white and Cahill, but others may be used. The white Thread Jigs works well on the Current River while the Cahill color seems to work better at Bennett Springs. Both jigs are worth trying no matter what stream you are fishing.

## Fishing:

Fish the jig under and indicator. The thread jig also makes a great attractor fly or weight fly to get another fly down in the water column.

## Notes:

# Thread Midges

The Thread Midge was created in a tool shed in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1996. "I was a production tier at the time and, after staying up all night to complete a large order for Wendy Gunn of Lee's Ferry, I had an hour to wait for the mailman to pick up an order of Brassies, Pheasant Tails, scuds and chironomids.

Tired and not sure what I was going to tie next, I put a bead on a hook, with a little lead under the bead to hold it straight, applied some wire behind the bead and wrapped the thread on it. Voila! I tied 12 copper heads with copper wire and 12 silver beads with silver wire and included them in Wendy's order. I asked her to pass a few to her guides.

A couple days later I drove up to the Ferry to collect a check and to go fishing. When I got to the fly shop I was approached by one of her guides, who asked if I had any more of those copper and silver flies. I said no and asked why. He said the fish were swimming across the river for the flies. When Wendy heard this she ordered 200 of each and it went from there. After a few days, Wendy called and asked me to apply different colors of thread to the body. I had no idea that this particular fly would become so productive and popular at such a rapid rate. Now the Zebra Midge is a staple here at Lee's Ferry."...Ted (AKA Deadly Teddy) Wellington Marble Canyon, Arizona



## Materials:

Hook: Dai-Riki 125 or Tiemco 2488 (straight eye scud hook) Size #18  
Body: Black Thread  
Bead: Silver 5/64 Tungsten (Use 1/16" Tungsten for Size #20 and smaller)  
Gills: White Antron Yarn (Optional)  
Ribbing: Fine silver wire

## Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the bead backward on the hook. (The drill side would then be toward the eye. This will allow the bead to slide over the front gills.)
2. Place the hook in the vice and start the thread behind the eye in front of the bead.
3. Tie in five or six strands of antron yarn about 1-1/2" in length.
4. Whip finish, cut off the thread and slide the bead over the yarn.
5. Start the thread behind the bead and wind down a distance of about half of the hook shank
6. Cut off the front gills to length. The remainder of the yarn should be tied in behind the bead (will form back gill).
7. Tie in a piece of fine silver wire. Wrap both the wire and antron yarn (back gill) to the bend or slightly beyond.
8. Bring the thread back to a point behind the bead.
9. Wrap the wire to a point behind the bead (no more than 5-6 wraps).
10. Tie off the wire and whip finish.

## Variations:

The Thread Midge can also be tied using a black bead and white thread and red ribbing (Candy Cane); black bead and brown thread with black ribbing (Van Patten); or. Copper bead and brown DMC thread and black ribbing.(Bennett Springs Special). Try adding gills to the midge.

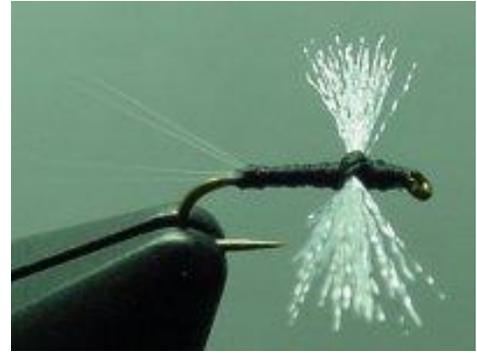
## Fishing Techniques:

Midges should be fished at the depth of the fish. If no fish are visible, fish the midge with an indicator and a split shot or as the dropper fly off some type of heavy fly (Good choice is a weighted egg pattern with the midge tied off the bend). If fish are up in the water column (visible), use a small indicator and fish the midge at the level of the fish.

## Notes:

# Trico Spinners

The Tricos were first introduced to anglers in a 1969 Outdoor Life article by Vincent Marinaro, who misidentified them as *Caenis*. By the early 1970s the identification had been corrected but Swisher and Richards still wrote in *Selective Trout*, "*Few anglers are familiar with these extremely small but important mayflies.*" The next wave of publications boosted *Tricorythodes* to its current fame. I suspect their early dismissal was due in part to tackle limitations; anglers in the 1950s had no means to effectively tie and present size 22-28 flies.



*Tricorythodes* hatch is remarkable in duration on the best streams; its species are multibrooded and may provide consistent morning fishing from July through October, rather than emerging for a few weeks and moving on to different waters. A bonus for tiers is that imitations need only be the right proportion, and close in color.

## Materials:

Hook: Tiemco 100 size 20-24  
Thread: Black 14/0  
Body: Black Thread and superfine dubbing  
Tail: White Micro Fibbets  
Wings: Sparkle Organza

## Tying Instructions:

1. Start thread and wrap a small mound as shown. This will help to flare out the tail material.
2. Tie in a 4-6 micro fibbets on top of the shank, wrapping towards the rear. As the thread goes towards the mound, the fibers will separate. Try to get them into two tail sections.
3. Sparkle organza is a material used in making wedding gowns. You can get some at any local fabric store. It makes wings that sparkle in the sun, which is what the natural tricos have during the spinner stage.
4. Strip off some fibers from a piece of organza and tie them in using figure eight wraps.
5. Make any needed wraps of thread to fill out the body. On smaller flies, a straight thread body will work. You may also use superfine dubbing to complete the body. Pull up the wing material and make one cut to form the wings

## Variations:

You can use polypropylene for the wings as a substitute for the sparkle organza.

## Fishing:

Fish in the surface film using a long fine leader and tippet.

## Notes:

# Woolly Bugger

A Harrisburg, Pennsylvania fly tier, Russell Blessing tied the first "Buggers". He added a marabou tail to a woolly worm fly, to help suggest a swimming movement as the fly was retrieved in the water. He found that even if fished dead-drift the fly still had movement. The woolly worm is a very old fly that can be found in Izaak Walton's 1653 book 'The Compleat Angler'. Russell's original Woolly Bugger had a black marabou tail, and a black hackled olive chenille body. He had designed it to fish the small mouth bass in the streams near his home. He had been trying to imitate the dobsonfly lava. Back in 1967 on a hot August afternoon fly fishing journalist Barry Beck was having a hard time getting the fish to bite on the Little Lehigh River in Pennsylvania, USA. Other fly fishermen nearby were also having the same problem, that is all except one, Russ Blessing. In a 30 minute period he netted four nice trout. Barry went over and asked what fly he was using. Barry was shocked to find it was a streamer. This type of fly normally was not very productive on the Lehigh River and especially in August. Russ, a true gentleman fly fisherman who was always willing to share his knowledge of fly-fishing and fly-tying gave Barry one of his Woolly Buggers to try. Barry's luck changed and he started to catch trout. Barry was so impressed that when he met Russ in the parking area just as he was going home he asked for more information about the fly. Barry published an article on Russell Blessing's wondrous Woolly Bugger in 1984. The rest is history. It became so popular that it is now an American standby.



## Materials:

Hook: Usually a streamer in 2X to 4X size 12 – 8  
Thread: Color of chenille  
Chenille: Olive, black and brown are popular colors.  
Hackle: Color to match the body  
Tail: Color to match the body

## Tying Instructions:

1. Secure the hook in the vise. Start the thread by winding a few turns overlapping one another. Wrap the thread towards the tail end of the hook. Select an appropriate Marabou feather and tie it in. As a general rule, the tail should be the same length or shorter as the fly body. Longer tails may result in short strikes.
2. Once the tail has been tied in, cut a 6" to 7" of chenille and tie it in by the tail. A hackle feather should also be tied in, tip first, in the same manner. Move your thread to the front of the hook when done.
3. Wind the chenille forward creating a dense "fuzzy" body. Tie off at the eye of the hook.
4. Wrap the hackle forward making sure that each turn is evenly spaced. This technique is referred to as palmered hackle. Once the hackle has reached the front of the hook, make one final rotation to create an even collar and tie off using the thread.
5. Cut away the access hackle and chenille. Whip finish and apply head cement. It is as easy as that!

## Variations:

Woolly Buggers and variety are synonymous. Once you've mastered the art of tying a regular bugger, try experimenting with bead heads. Add some rubber hackle in the tail, or try some crystal flash. The possibilities are truly endless...have fun!

## Fishing:

The Woolly Bugger is a very versatile fly to fish. You can cast it upstream and fish it like a nymph, or cast across a stream and let it drift with the current. A great way to fish streamer flies is to cast across stream, let the current carry it down and across and make stripping retrieves, pulling 6-24" in your fly line, imparting subtle and deliberate action to the fly. The hackle will twitch back over the body and the tail will flare and wiggle supply. This drives fish wild and brings surprising hook ups and many big fish!

## Notes:

## Bonus Pattern

Although one of the original 25 patterns, it has been removed from that group because of the difficulty in finding tying material. If you are lucky enough to find the material, buy a lot.

## Bed Spread

The Bread Spread was first tied by Bob Gaston of Gaston's Fly and Gun Shop located just outside of Bennett Springs Park. Bob ordered the material from a bed spread manufacturing company somewhere out east. Once the fly caught-on, Bob purchased a lasting supply of the material. Bob is no longer in business, so, this fly maybe hard to add to your fly box. The jig is sometimes called the "Meat Fly" or "Flesh Fly" as it appears to be a hunk of flesh from a dead or skinned trout. We have all seen trout fighting over or swimming with a piece of a skinned trout in their mouth. Great time to tie on that Bed Spread.

### Materials:

Hook: Jig hook to size and weight desired. Cream or Cahill colored head  
Thread: Light Cahill 8/0  
Tail: Bed Spread Material  
Body: Bed Spread Material



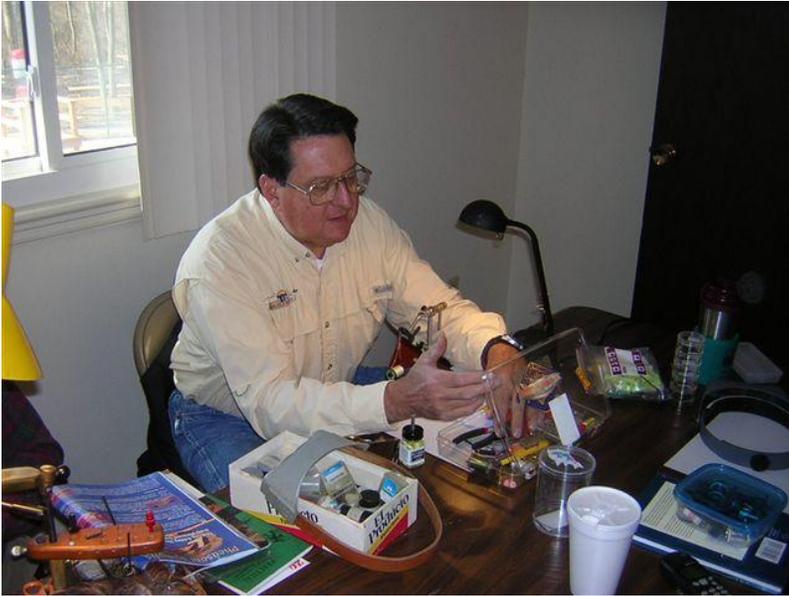
### Tying Instructions:

1. Mount the jig and tie on the thread behind the jig.
2. Starting at the jig, tie on a section of material all the way to the bend. Cut the tail to about the length of the gap.
3. Bring the thread back to a point behind the jig by making tight wraps of the thread.
4. Tie on a 6-inch section of the material to all the way to the bend. Bring the thread back to behind the jig.
5. Wrap the material forward to a point just behind the jig.
6. Tie off and whip finish.

### Fishing:

The Bed Spread is usually fished under an indicator and is especially effective in areas that fly fishers use to clean their catch. The Bed Spread is sometimes called the Gut Fly.

### Notes:



*"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning; no matter how long we have been at it, we are constantly making some fresh discovery, picking up some new wrinkle. If we become conceited through great success, some day the trout will take us down a peg."*

~by Theodore Gordon-1907~

This list of 25 flies was compiled using a survey conducted by the Ozark Fly Fishers over their web site. Although the survey was conducted in 2009, the nature of fly tying is always changing as new tying materials are developed and new ideas are presented by innovative tiers. There is nothing scientific about the survey and can only be taken at face value. The survey was conducted by and published by member Al Bourisaw.