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FLY OF THE MONTH

Upside Down Clouser

January 2002

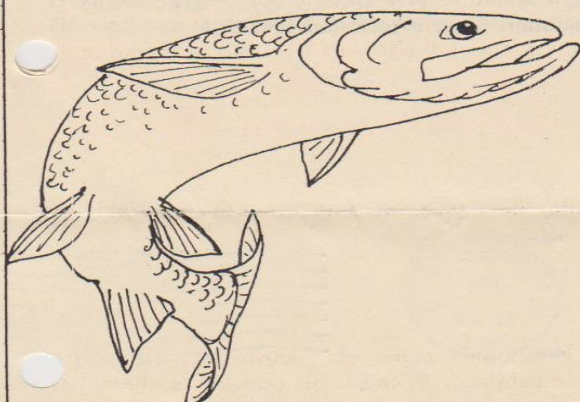
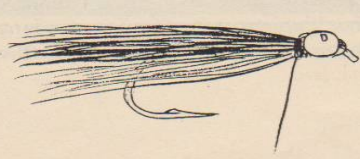
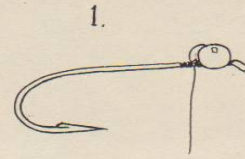
Clouser & Brossoit

The January meeting will feature an expedition to the Alaskan Arctic after the legendary Sheefish. Leon Buckles, Doug Brossoit, Dick Odell, and Gene Lorenson found, and caught, a goodly number of the "tarpons of the North". A variety of streamer patterns enticed the large minnow-munchers to strike but perhaps the most productive fly was Doug's Upside Down Clouser. Doug had tied a bunch of green and white Clouser minnows with lead eyes. He tied the lead eyes on top of the hook shank which caused the fly to turn over in the water with the white side up and the green side down. Of course, when the fly proved to be wildly successful, Doug claimed he planned it that way.

- Hook: #4, #2, 2 or 3X long
- Thread: Heavy black or white
- Wing: White and green bucktail
- Eyes: Lead dumbbell, chrome plated
- Options: Silver tinsel body, Krystal Flash in wing



1. Pinch the barb and attach the thread to the front of the hook. Tie in the lead eyes on top of the hook shank using multiple cross ties to firmly secure them. Cement for added strength. (If you wish to add a silver body, do so at this stage.)
2. Tie in the white bucktail under the hook shank.
3. Tie in the green bucktail on top of the hook shank. (Add a few strands of Krystal Flash if you wish.) Whip finish and cement.



GEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Mostly Hackle Nymph

February 2002

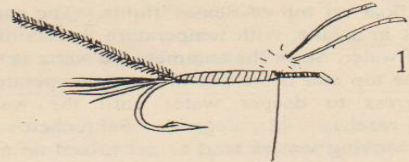
Gene Lorenson

Many of the feathers we use in the fly tying art (or is it madness?) can be used in a number of ways besides the traditional or obvious one. Hackle feathers can serve several purposes as this month's featured fly demonstrates. Tail, body, rib, shell-back and legs are all hackle feathers. The color of the hackle matches the natural you are targeting. I like browns, olives, ginger, grizzly and black. The underbody of Krystal Flash peeking through the trimmed hackle rib gives sparkle. The wingcase-legs configuration was borrowed from the Downey Wonder Nymph from the April 1998 issue of the Fly Leaf. (This nymph can be tied weighted with fine lead wire or tied in a bead-head version.)

Hook: Your favorite nymph hooks 18-12
 Thread: Fine silk, color to match
 Tail: Hackle fibers
 Body: Pearl Krystal Flash
 Rib: Hackle feather with fibers trimmed very close to the center stem
 Wingcase-Legs: Hackle feather
 Thorax: Dubbing to match hackle feathers



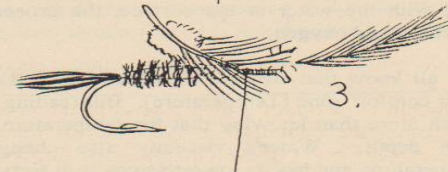
1. Pinch the barb and line the hook with tying thread. Tie in the hackle fiber tail. Take a hackle feather and trim the fibers very close to the center stem on both sides. Attach it to the rear of the hook. Now take a couple of Krystal Flash strands, tie them in at the hook bend and wind the body up to the thorax position. Put a bit of cement over the Krystal Flash.



2. Wind the trimmed hackle forward as a closely wound rib. Be sure to let the underbody of Krystal Flash peek through generously.



3. Take a carefully selected hackle feather that will have the proper sized legs when attached to the top of the thorax. Tie it in immediately in front of the body with the butt facing the tail of the fly and with the curve of the feather facing upwards. The portion of the feather that will be folded forward to form the wingcase and legs should have some of the soft Marabou-like fibers and a few of the longer fibers to act as legs. This part of the hackle feather is found near the base of the feather.



4. Twist a bit of your favorite dubbing material on the tying thread and form a plump thorax. Now carefully bring the hackle feather forward to form the wingcase-legs. Hold it firmly in place and tie it off. Trim the excess. Form a small head, whip finish and cement.



5. Bead head version.



GEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

**The first of the Red Hot Llamas
(a home grown fly)**

March 2002

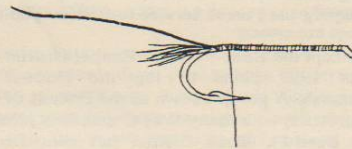
Gene Lorenson

The past few years have seen a proliferation of new materials in fly tying that is mind boggling, to say the least. Space age technology (not to mention marketing) has changed fly fishing and tying from what they were not too long ago. Most of the changes have been on the positive side, leading to new techniques that have enhanced our sport. Reflecting on how things have evolved over the fifty years I have been fly fishing, I have enjoyed the new innovations but still cherish some of the old ways. For example, some of the most successful flies I have used over the years were constructed from materials found around the place. Yarn and threads from sewing baskets, dubbing from old coats, snips from nylon carpets, and fur and feathers from pets and wild critters have all been used to great advantage. So I decided to see what kind of new fly I could create today with materials from house and yard. March's Fly of the Month is the result. You can do the same, I'm sure. Give it a try.

Hook: Herter's Gaelic Supreme #70292X
size 8, 2x long
Thread: Fine black
Tail: Fibers from quail or pheasant rump
Rib: Fine copper wire
Body: Mixed dubbing of fine brown llama
wool and olive green nylon carpet
Hackle: 2 turns of quail or pheasant
rump feather
Collar: Filoplume from quail or pheasant



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Make a short tail of quail or pheasant rump feather (picked up or shot on the property). Tie in a bit of fine copper wire for the rib (scrounged from some electrical device).
2. Using your favorite dubbing technique, form a body of mixed fine brown llama wool (gleaned from the fence in our llama pen) and olive nylon carpet fibers (from the first carpet in our house, 1967). Counter wrap the wire rib. The body should cover 3/4 of the hook shank.
3. Make a sparse hackle of quail or pheasant rump and make a few turns of the tying thread in front to make the fibers lie back as shown.
4. Take a filoplume feather of pheasant or quail and very carefully twist it around the tying thread. Make several winds of the filoplume to form the fuzzy collar. Wind a small head and whip finish. If you use cement on the head, be careful not to let the glue get back into the filoplume. It will foul up the feathers.



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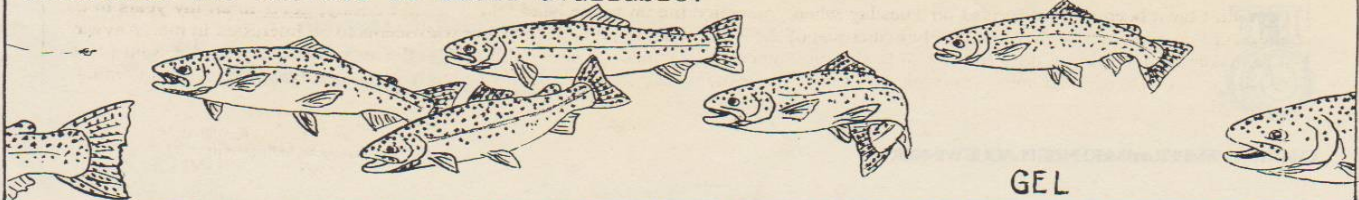


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Note: Living out here in the boondocks may have some advantages over you city dwellers. I have pheasants, quail, ruffed grouse, hungarian partridge, hawks, owls, ravens, and more kinds of songbirds than you can count. Wild animal material sources include coyotes, squirrels, whitetail deer, elk and, as I write this article there are two moose over by my mom's house. On the domestic side, our house cat has the most beautiful blue-gray fur and our two llamas have a 10-thousand year supply of fine white, ginger and brown wool. I've just scratched the surface of stuff available.



GEL

FLY OF THE MONTH

Egg Sucking Schlappen

April 2002

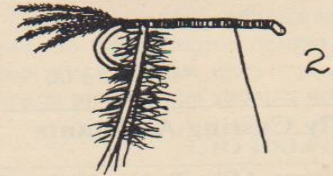
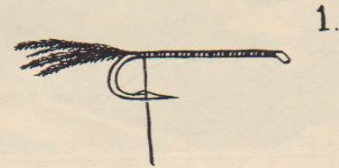
"The Committee"

They say that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. Well, here is a fly designed by a committee. A bunch of fly tyers were finishing a session one evening in Leon Buckle's tying loft. "Nobody leaves until I get a 'fly of the month,'" I declared. Since none was forthcoming, we decided to design one by popular consent. Gary Honeyman chose the hook and thread. Dick O'Dell picked the tail. Leon Buckles provided the dubbed body. Pat Kendall came up with the ribbing. Scott Fink chose the schlappen hackle, a soft, webby type. Finally, Bill Stroup added the pink yarn head. All the time the lads were choosing, Gene Lorenson was tying the creature. So there you have it, a fly designed by a committee. We are sure it will catch fish and we'll try it next time out.

Hook: #8-6-4 2x long
 Thread: Black
 Tail: 4-5 peacock sword fibers
 Rib: Salt water holographic flash
 Body: Blended dubbing of black and claret Marabou fibers and white and brown llama wool
 Hackle: Dyed black Schlappen, 3-4 turns
 Head: Passionate pink Glo-yarn



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in the peacock sword tail fibers.
2. Make a dubbing loop of the holographic rib material and arrange the blended dubbing evenly in the loop.
3. Wind the body on 2/3 of the hook shank and trim the excess. Be sure to leave plenty of the rib material peeking through the dubbing.
4. Tie in the Schlappen hackle feather and wind on 3 or 4 turns.
5. Make a chunky head with the Glo-yarn and whip finish.



GEL

FLY OF THE MONTH

Doug Brossoit
Gene Lorenson

Water Boatmen

May 2002

Here are two more variations on tying a workable water boatman pattern. The basic difference in the first is the use of clear plastic tubing for the air bubble. It also incorporates a metal or glass bead for the head of the creature. The fly is quick and easy to tie and should work very well when the boatmen are splashing down on our local lakes. The second one is a modification of a boatman Doug Brossoit first picked up at the Blue Dun Fly Shop. It is even easier to tie and Doug, Bob Harley and Steve Dixon have had great success with it on many different waters, both in spring and fall. Doug favors a 5/32 tungsten bead for added weight. Remember, you can't have too many water boatmen patterns in your fly boxes. Be sure and make them smack the water when you make your cast.

Fly #1:
Hook: #12 sproat bend
Thread: Fine black
Head: Black brass, tungsten or glass bead
Body: Your favorite dubbing in olive or tan
Back shell: Peacock herl
Bubble: Clear plastic tubing with pearl Krystal Flash inside
Legs: Black rubber leg material

Fly #2:
Hook: #12 1 or 2x long
Thread: Black
Head: Brass bead, 5/32 tungsten
Body: Small black-green cactus chenille
Legs: Black rubber
Overshell: 8-10 strands of pearl Krystal Flash

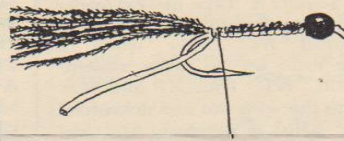
Fly #1
1. Pinch the barb and slide the head bead up to the eye of the hook. Tie a piece of plastic tubing under the hook shank, leaving plenty at the rear to fold forward under the fly to form the bubble. On the top hook shank, tie in 8 to 10 peacock herl fibers and leave them dangling back.

2. Using the dubbing material of choice, form a plump body as shown. Now bring the tubing forward under the body and tie it off right behind the bead head. Leave it somewhat loose so it is highly visible.

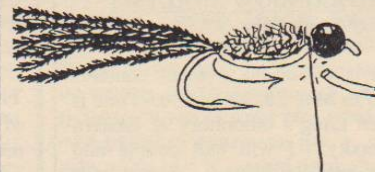
3. Attach the rubber legs behind the bead.

4. Bring the peacock herl forward to form the shell back. Whip finish behind the bead head and carefully cement...

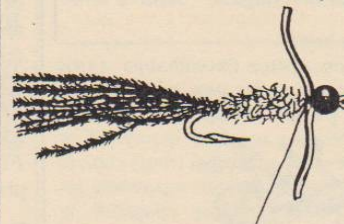
Fly #2:
5. Slip the bead on the hook and line the shank with thread. Tie in the Krystal Flash strands right behind the bead head facing forward. Attach and wrap the chenille body, tying it off right behind the brass bead. Tie in the rubber legs in the same position. Do a whip finish to secure the body and legs just behind the Krystal Flash shell. Run the tying thread under the body of the fly to the bend of the hook and secure it with a half hitch. Bend the Krystal Flash back over the top of the body and fasten it at the bend. Whip finish again to secure the Krystal Flash shell and trim the excess. Cement both whip finishes.



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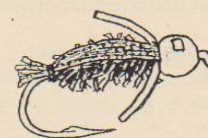
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Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

LEAD EYE SCULPIN

Gene Lorenson

The idea for this pattern came from observing Dave Holmes hook numerous big cutts on the St. Joe and watching a real sculpin swimming around the oatmeal pot one morning. The size, shape, and extremely dark coloration of the little beastie inspired me to tie a pattern that would imitate those characteristics. The lead eyes add eyeball appeal and weight that makes the fly swim with the hook point up. It scours the bottom but rarely hangs up. I fish it with a dry line and a strike indicator quartering upstream.

MATERIALS

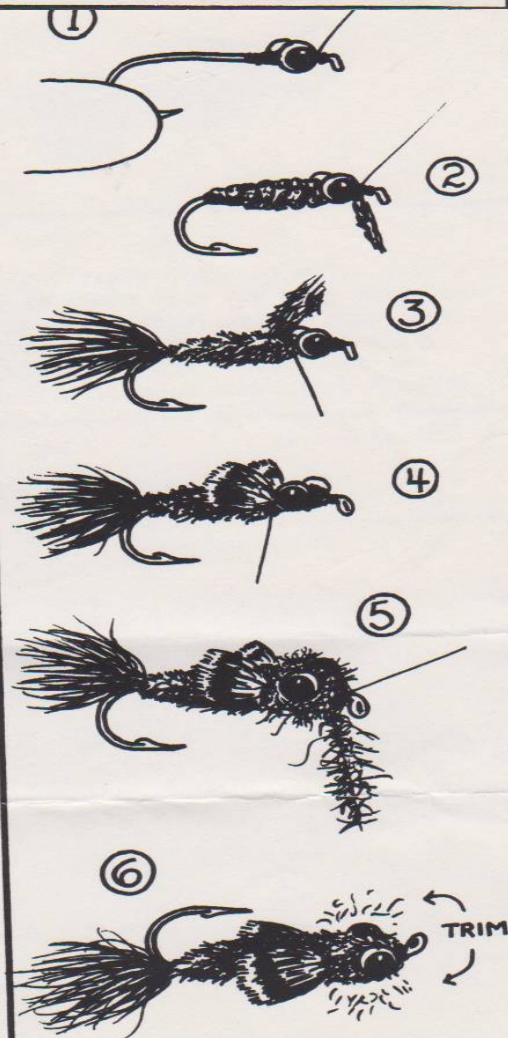
Hooks -- #6 - #2, 3x long
Thread -- dark monochord
Eyes -- lead dumb-bells (large) painted yellow or white and black
Tail and Body -- maribou
Large pectoral fins -- feathers from back of pheasant
Head -- dubbed seal fur or poly
Colors of materials can vary to match the situation, black, brown, olive, green, etc.



1. Tie lead eye to top of hook using cross wraps. Make it secure and cement.
2. Build up a sharply tapered underbody using dark wool. Sculpins are slender at the tail and really wide up front.
3. Tie in a couple of maribou feathers at the bend of the hook, leaving the tips free to form the tail. Wind the rest of the feather on to form the body. (An alternate way is to use maribou as the tail and dub a body of fur or poly.) Tie off behind the eyes.
4. Take tips of two pheasant back feathers, trim to size and tie in behind the eyes. They should be splayed and angled slightly upward.
5. Form a dubbing loop and dub a thick head of seal fur or poly in front of the wings and around the eyes. Tie off and whip finish.
6. Trim head flat on top and bottom.

UNCLE FRANK'S TIPS

Bend down the barb of the hook before you tie the fly, especially on small, delicate hooks. Have you ever tied on your last poly poobah may fly during the year's best hatch and broke the whole point off the hook while pinching the barb?



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Foam-Backed Humpy

September, 2002

Boyd Matson

The **Humpy** is a very, very versatile fly that floats well. Because it is close enough in appearance to a variety of bugs, it works well in many situations. Boyd Matson has come across a simplified version that floats even better and is much more durable. It is also much easier and faster to tie. The pattern employs closed-cell foam for the overbody in place of the deer or elk hair on the original. He also eliminated the hair wing which is the trickiest part of the original to tie. The fish don't seem to mind this omission. It can be tied in sizes from 18-8 in an assortment of colors. Put an assortment in your fly boxes and give them a try.

Hook: Dry fly #18 – 8

Thread: Fine nylon to match fly color

Tail: Deer, elk hair or moose mane

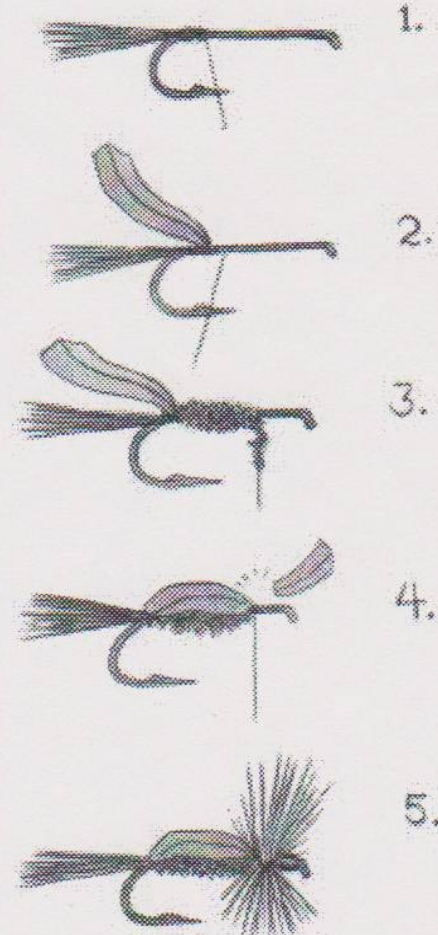
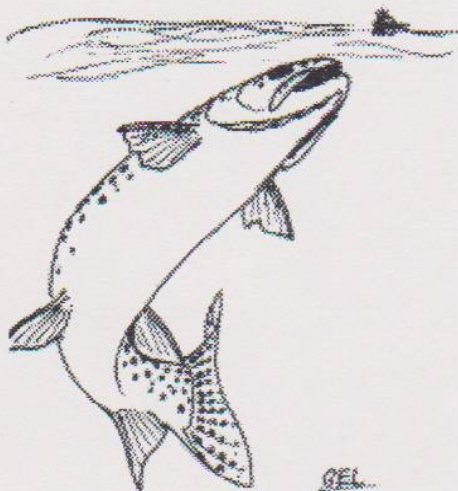
Body: Your choice of dubbing, etc. various colors - yellow, gray, brown, red, black

Overbody or Hump: Close-celled foam in color of choice

Hackle: Mixed grizzly and brown or other hackle of choice



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in the hair tail.
2. Attach the foam overbody piece at the bend of the hook. It should be carefully sized to match the fly size from 1/16 of an inch to 1/8" wide.
3. Leaving the foam dangling to the rear, wind on the body material be it dubbing, wool, floss, etc.
4. Fold the "hump" forward, tie it off and trim the excess. Be sure and leave adequate room for the hackles.
5. Wind on one grizzly and one brown hackle (or other colors of your choice). Whip finish and cement.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Tri-color Flesh Fly

October, 2002

Larry Hagen

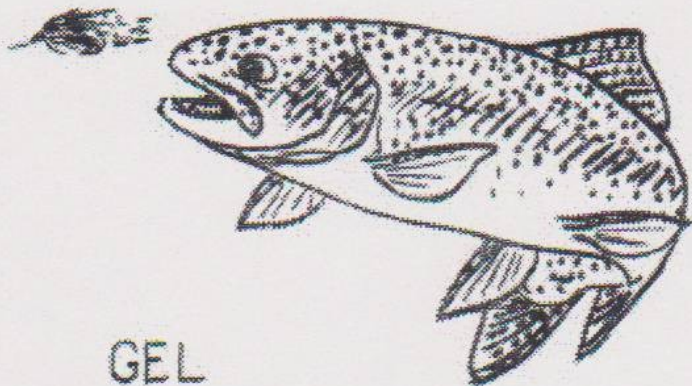
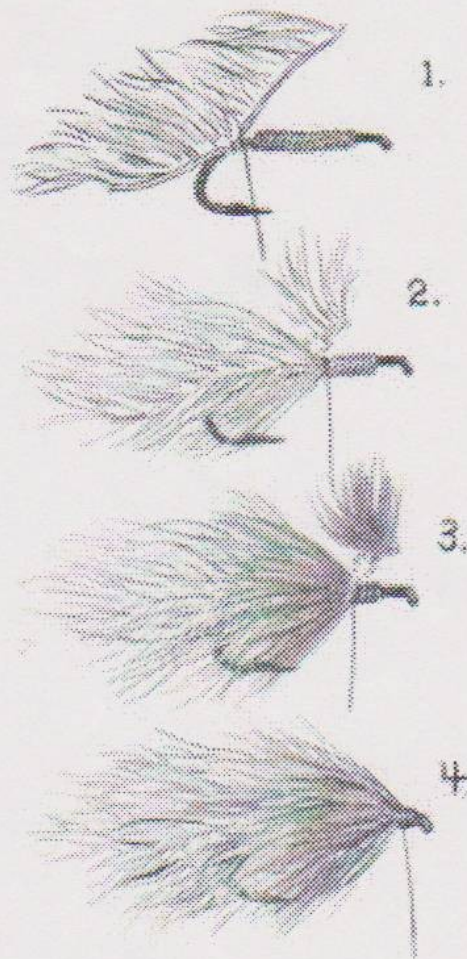
When fishing an Alaskan river in the latter part of August when the stream is loaded with spawning kings, reds, chums, and humpies and is receiving fresh-run silvers, there are certain flies you better have in your arsenal. A variety of egg patterns is a must. Another essential is a good supply of flesh flies. When there are dead, decaying salmon in the water, the flesh fly is your best choice. This month's pattern was given to Larry Hagen by Aaron, a biologist at the Togiak Wildlife Refuge, who recommended a new river out by Bethel. Larry asked me to tie up a bunch for our float trip on a that river. The tri-colored flesh fly took more 2-6 pound rainbows than we could count plus an equal number of grayling and many fine dolly varden. We were targeting rainbows and found the best rainbow fishing we've ever experienced. The flesh fly also took silver salmon when fished like a streamer. It was by far our most successful fly on an extremely successful float.

Hook: #4 or 2, 2x long and 2x heavy
Thread: Stout monocord, black or red
Body: White, orange or rust and natural gray rabbit fur strips over lead wrapped hook

Note: I have substituted dubbed marabou for the rabbit fur or combined marabou and rabbit fur with excellent results.



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Cover most of the hook shank with lead wire. Tie on a piece of white rabbit fur strip, leaving a 1/2 inch part dangling to the rear.
2. Wind 3 or 4 turns of the white fur strip forward, making sure that the fur fibers point backwards. Tie off and trim the excess.
3. Attach an orange rabbit fur strip and make 3 turns with the fur pointing back, secure, and trim the left over.
4. Attach a strip of natural colored (gray or brown) bunny fur ahead of the orange and wind it forward about two turns, leaving room for the head. Tie it off and trim. Wind a smooth head, whip finish, and cement.



GEL

FLY OF THE MONTH

Western Coachman

November, 2002

An Old Favorite

This month's featured fly is an old traditional pattern that has fooled fish for a long, long time. It will probably continue to deceive our finny friends long after we've departed the scene. I first used it in the Spokane River near the Green Street bridge back in the 60's. In spring high water, the caddis would hatch in the flooded willows along the bank. Ex-president Hank Learnard and I would wade out into the willows and make short casts of 10 to 15 feet whenever we saw a rise. We took mostly eastern brook trout in those days. The Western Coachman's silhouette matched the shape and size of the caddis and the white wing helped us keep track of the fly in among the willows. The fly also works in more usual situations on streams and lakes as an attractor pattern. It was Hank's favorite fly and remains one of mine also. The same basic pattern is featured in the latest FFF magazine in Al and Gretchen Beatty's article. They call it the Trude.

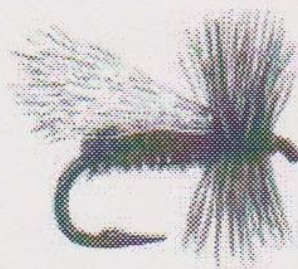
Hook: Size 20 - 8, dry fly

Thread: Black to match fly size

Body: Peacock herl

Wing: White deer hair, calf tail or other white hair (white poly yarn works well)

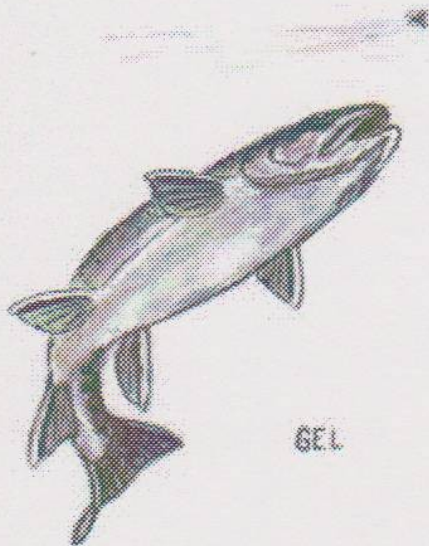
Hackle: Brown dry fly quality saddle or neck



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Wind a body with peacock herl on about 2/3 of the hook shank.

2. Make a wing extending just past the bend of the hook. Trim the excess and use the thread to form a smooth platform for the hackle,

3. Tie in the hackle - one or two depending on the size of the hook. Wind the hackle forward and trim. Wind a small head, whip finish and cement.



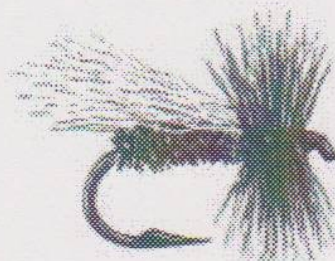
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FLY OF THE MONTH

Black Sculpin

December, 2002

Gene Lorenson

Sculpins are a juicy mouthful for many of our favorite trouts and other game fish. They are found in many aquatic environments through the fly fisher's world. They come in many shades of color, but many are very dark. This month's featured fly imitates the black sculpins in the St. Joe and other nearby streams. The rabbit fur tail produces lots of wiggle, the cactus chenille adds sparkle and the spun, trimmed deer hair provides the shape of the wide, flat head and large front fins. I like to add eyes to give added strike appeal. The lead underbody takes it to the bottom quickly. Fish it deep near the cover of rocks and logs.

Hook: Alcock sproat #4, 3X long, 2X stout (or equivalent)

Thread: Strong black nylon

Tail: Black rabbit fur strip

Body: Medium black cactus chenille over lead wire

Head and fins: Spun and trimmed black deer hair

Eyes: Spirit River 3D molded eyes 2.5 silver



1. Bend the barb and line the back half of the hook with tying thread. Tie in a piece of rabbit strip leaving a 1/2-inch strip dangling to the rear. Wind lead wire from the hook bend to the middle of the hook shank.

2. Cover the lead wire with the cactus chenille.

3. Take a bunch of the black deer hair about the thickness of a pencil with the points of the hair left on. Even the points in a hair stacker. Trim the butt so the bunch is about an inch long. Spin the hair around the hook shank right in front of the chenille body as shown. The pointed ends should be longer. Repeat this step with another bunch of hair. Push the bunches back as tight as possible. Now take 1/2-inch long bunches of hair with the pointed ends trimmed off and spin as many bunches as you can get on the front of the hook shank. Pack the hair back tightly. Whip finish a small head and trim the tying thread.

4. Now trim the deer hair to form the wide, flat sculpin head. Trim a small flat spot on each side of the head where the eyes will go. Put a small blob of Shoe Goo on the back of the eyes and firmly press them in place.

