

NTE



By Bob Bates

Tiny insects have been around much much longer than fly tiers have been around trying to imitate them to catch fish. From the time of my first contact with tiny flies, sizes 24 and 28 in the late 1950's, the same argument has been voiced: They are too small to catch fish or tie on a leader. Wrong! Look around, and you will see more people like Norm Crisp of Prairie Village, KS who are taking advantage of small flies. Fish like them so why shouldn't we? Norm was tying this simple, tiny, effective pattern at the 2009 FFF Conclave in Loveland, CO. Sometimes small flies are the only thing that will catch fish.

He fishes the small streams in Missouri that flow out of limestone bluffs. These cool water springs yield freestone streams that are good for trout. Southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa and parts of Wisconsin also have these cool streams containing brown trout and in the rare case brook trout. Midges are the food of choice.

Midges are found all over the world, so this pattern can be used in many places. They can hatch anytime there is open water.

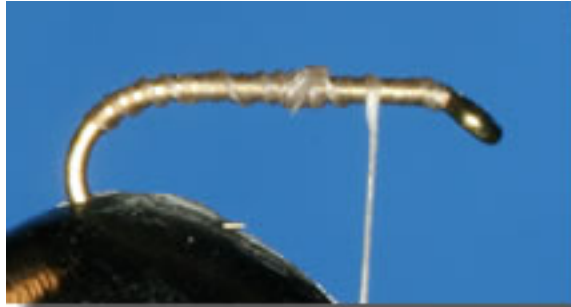
Materials list:

Hook: Tiemco TMC 100, sizes 22 and 24

Thread: Uni 8/0 color to match body

Overbody and wing: Poly yarn tan, gray, olive or black

Tying steps:



1. Attach thread and wind a thread base around the bend and back to front of hook.



2. You might have to split the yarn. Attach poly yarn near front of hook, and bind it down all the way around the bend.



3. Wind thread forward to eye then rearward to a point about one third shank length behind the eye. Bring poly forward to front and secure. Stand up post and wind thread in front of it. Trim post to be about one-half shank length long.



4. Finish the fly behind the post, and trim the thread.

There is still the question of putting the fly on a piece of nylon. Hold the fly so there is contrasting background for both the hook and the leader. Since there are no fibers over the eye there should be little or no problem threading the fly on the leader. But if you still have a problem, I saw a device the other day that made putting the fly on the leader virtually guaranteed. Drop the fly eye-first into a magnetic slot in the tool. Then slide the leader along another slot which guides it through the eye. Now tie whatever knot you want. There are two problems with the device. It will sink if it isn't tied to something, and the price was \$10 on the model I saw.

Norm tied this fly using a standard vise. He just buried the hook a little more than usual. At home I put it in a narrow jaw vise to show it off better. The main thing is that tiny flies can be tied with regular tools, and they catch fish.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
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