

B&B ZINCK MINK



By Bob Bates

Ruth Zinck of Calgary, Alberta, Canada revealed the Zinck Mink at the 1989 FFF Conclave and in the *Patterns of the Masters* for that year. At the 40th Anniversary Conclave, 2005, she showed us how to tie the B&B Zinck Mink, an improved version of the older pattern. It should be obvious from the picture, but the B&B is for Bead and Beard. It is an easy pattern to tie.

As with so many fly patterns one thing builds on another. Don Moore from Ontario's Izaak Walton Club showed her a fly called Moore's Muskrat. When she added mahogany mink tails to her supplies she used them to tie a variation she called the Zinck Mink. It was a successful pattern, and either weighted or un-weighted it caught trout and whitefish in lakes and streams. So why not improve it a little? The improvements came with a bead head and a peacock sword beard. Ruth says that fish like the improvements.

It is the kind of fly that permits many different fishing techniques. Floating, sink tip or full sink fly lines may be used to fish different depths. In streams cast across, let it dead drift and then swing. An upstream cast would let the fly sink a little longer. In lakes let it sink to near the bottom or just over the weeds and vary the retrieve. It can even be mooched (trolled) from a belly boat, pontoon boat or regular boat. Keep experimenting with techniques until something works, and then keep it up until the fish decide they want something else.

Materials list:

Hook: Mustad 9671 sizes 10 –14

Bead: Gold 7/64- or 1/8-inch diameter

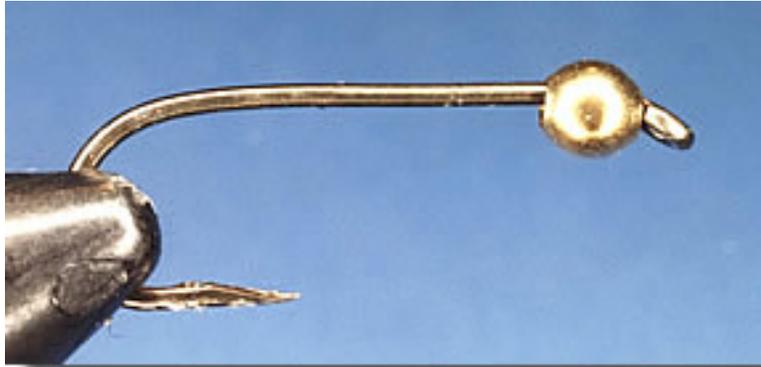
Tail: Mink guard hairs, mahogany or black

Body: Mink underfur, mahogany or black

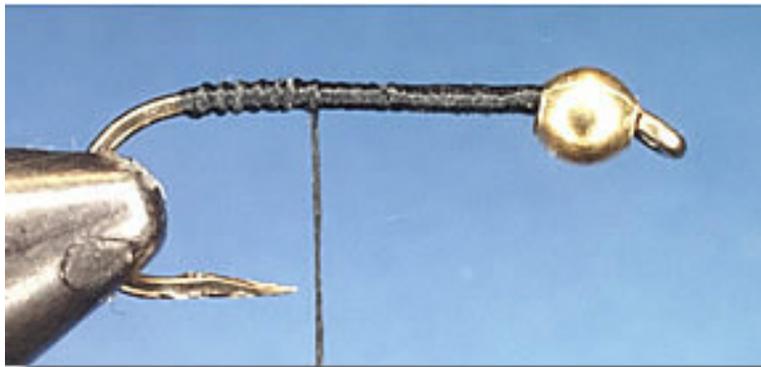
Thorax: Mink underfur with guard hairs, mahogany or black

Beard: 3 - 5 peacock sword herls

Tying steps:



1. Smash down barb with smooth jaw pliers and slide bead on hook. If the hole on one side of the bead is smaller than the other make sure the smaller hole is toward the hook's eye.



2. Start thread near front of hook and wind thread rearward to the bend and then forward to mid shank on hook.



3. Cut a small bunch of mink hair from close to the skin. Pull out the guard hairs and save the underfur. Stack 10 to 15 guard hairs. Hold guard hairs on hook to make a tail that is one gap-width beyond the bend. Trimming the hair at mid shank now is more efficient than doing it later. Secure tail fibers with thread, and wind thread over the tail fibers to bend of hook. Hold fibers on top of hook while the thread is wound rearward.



4. Dub underfur on thread. Remember roll the dubbing between the thumb and first finger in one direction only.



5. Wrap dubbed thread forward to mid shank. Taper the body a little larger toward mid shank.



6. Cut another bunch of mink hair. Remove a few of the guard hairs, mix the remaining underfur and guard hairs and make a shaggy dubbing noodle. Wrap thorax forward to bead. A shaggy thorax is ideal; you can make it more shaggy by brushing with a piece of the hook side of Velcro.



7. Take 3 to 5 of the peacock sword herls and even the tips with the curve in the same direction. Place them under the hook with the curve upward and tips about the hook point. Secure sword herls with two whip finishes right behind the bead. Do not use head cement. Ruth was told several years ago that the fish can “smell” the head cement and avoid the fly. Just in case it is true she doesn’t put head cement on any of her flies.

Closing comments: This is an easy fly to tie, so there is no excuse in not tying a bunch of them and going fishing. It will catch rainbow, brook, brown and cutthroat trout. There is enough sparkle and movement of the fibers as the fly goes through the water to make it look alive. Some insects look a bit like this non-descript pattern so fish will want to hit it before it gets away.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org