

# On The Fly

## September 2012

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

### PATTERN OF THE MONTH: Glimmer Bug

Hook: Daiichi 1120, heavy scud, size 6  
Head: 3/16 gold bead.  
Thread: 6-0 black  
Weight: 6-8 wraps .035 lead  
Body: Glimmer flash short or substitute.  
Hackle: Brown partridge.  
Collar: Black dubbing.



### Tying Instructions:

- Step 1:** Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise.  
**Step 2:** Slide the gold bead onto the hook shank, small hole first.  
**Step 3:** Take 6-8 wraps of lead wire around the hook shank, trim both tags, and slide the wraps forward into the recess of the bead.  
**Step 4:** Start the thread just behind the lead and lay down a thread base rearward to the point halfway down the bend, then forward and back over the lead wraps to bind them down securely. Make a thread ramp from the shank to the lead for a smooth transition.  
**Step 5:** Tie in the Glimmer Flash just behind the bead and bind it down on top of the shank rearward to the end of the thread base. Wrap the flash material forward in touching turns to just behind the bead. Tie off and trim excess.  
**Step 6:** Select a brown partridge feather with barbs long enough to reach the bend of the hook. Prepare the feather and tie on by the tip behind the bead. Wind the feather forward two turns, tie off and trim excess.  
**Step 7:** Twist a small amount of black dubbing onto the thread and make a couple turns just in front of the hackle to form a small collar.  
**Step 8:** Whip finish and cement.

The Glimmer Bug was developed by the late Al Brunell of Corvallis, OR for steelhead on the Rogue River. That alone is enough creditability to tie and fish this pattern with confidence. Al field tested his flies first hand before he would ever put his name on them. This was one of his latest patterns before his death. I suppose it could be called a caddis imitation, although who knows what the steelhead takes it for. The bead and the lead will get it down in front of the fish, the flashy body material should get their attention, and the soft hackle adds life and movement. Those of us who knew Al personally know that his flies were as good as the person that invented them.

### Tying Tips

There are many other body materials that can be substituted for the brand name Glimmer Flash. You can use Estaz or Cactus Chenille just to name a few. These materials usually come in long or short shuck and come in a nice variety of colors any of which can be effective. I have used the peacock color on the fly pictured above. Use the short on this pattern. Be sure to stroke the fibers to the rear on each half turn while winding the body material forward. This will prevent clumping and ensure an even flowing body. The Glimmer Bug is as effective as it is easy to tie. The materials are easy to come by and inexpensive. So tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.