

On The Fly

April 2005

"Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate"

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: by Poul Jorgensen, Large Black Stonefly Nymph

<u>Hook-</u>	3X long salmon hook, size 2 - 6.
<u>Thread -</u>	Black 6-0.
<u>Underbody:</u>	Lead wire (.025") secured on either side of the shank.
<u>Tail:</u>	Brownish-black goose biots, 1/3 body length.
<u>Body:</u>	Brownish-black seal sub dubbing.
<u>Rib:</u>	Dark brown or black larva lace
<u>Wing Cases:</u>	Two folds of black Swiss Straw, a little wider than the body.
<u>Legs:</u>	Guard hairs with underfur from the back of a rabbit, dyed black
<u>Antenna:</u>	Brownish-black goose biots, 1/5 body length.
<u>Head:</u>	Black tying thread and small remainder of front wing case.



Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Start by wrapping a thread base on the hook shank to a point above the barb.

Step 2: Double a short length of lead wire to shape of a hairpin and cut it to a length that will reach from above the hook point to 1/8" behind the eye. Tie it on the hook shank with the loop forward toward the eye and the lead running along each side of the hook.

Step 3: Now roll a very small amount of the seal dubbing on the tying thread and form a small ball directly above the hook barb.

Step 4: For the tail, tie in two goose biots 1/3 the body length. Fasten them directly on each side of the shank between the lead wire and the fur ball. Wind the thread up against the fur ball to splay the biots at the proper angle.

Step 5: Wind the thread to the middle and tie in the larva lace rib material under the shank. Wind the thread back to the fur ball binding the rib under the hook in the process.

Step 6: Draw out a tapered length of seal dubbing and roll a point in the end. Tie in the pointed end under the shank in front of the fur ball. Spiral the dubbing counterclockwise around the thread and holding them together wind to form a slender tapered body 2/3 body length.

Step 7: Now wind the ribbing forward in fairly close spirals and tie it off in front of the body. Make sure you leave space equal to 1/3 body length for wing cases and leg sections

Step 8: Tie in the two goose biot antennae. They should sit in an open V shape and be 1/5 the body length.

Step 9: Select a 3" length of black Swiss Straw. This material is always wrinkled and must be unraveled and refolded so it's a little wider than the front of the body. Tie it in flat against the body with the long end towards the rear. Trim the surplus and apply a sparse amount of dubbing to cover the tie-in.

Step 10: Hold the Swiss Straw flat on top of the dubbed body and let it project to the rear. Place your dubbing needle on top of the wing material at a position that is 1/3 of the dubbed body length from the front. Fold the material over the needle to form the first wing case. Tie it down directly in front of the body

Step 11: Pull the remainder of the wing case material to the rear and tie it down in front of the first wing case. Then form a dubbing loop for the leg section.

Step 12: Cut the rabbit fur and insert it into the dubbing loop. Spin the loop into a fur chenille and wind it forward stroking the fur back on every turn. Separate the fur on top and pull it down each side.

Step 13: Place your dubbing needle on the wing case material at a point even with the middle of the first wing case. Fold the material over the needle and tie it down in front of the fur leg section. Add some additional thread winding and tie off with a whip finish. Trim off the surplus wing case material close to the tie-off windings but leave enough to represent the head. Head cement and you're done.

Stonefly nymphs are generally flat throughout their bodies and have long, segmented abdomens with two tails. They are easily distinguished from other nymphs because of their two marked wing cases. The nymph also has two antennae in the front. The first and most important consideration before starting to tie this pattern is to evaluate the proportions. This is perhaps more critical for stoneflies than any other insects because of their unique structure. Study a drawing or picture before you get started.

There is one more important factor that makes stoneflies different from other nymphs. They have a smooth outer shell without hairy filaments, as apposed to the mayfly with its breathing gills along each side of the abdomen. The hatching period starts in spring and lasts well into the summer months. The nymph is best fished in the early morning hours when they migrate to the shallow areas of the river to hatch. Tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.

TYING TIPS - Stonefly variations

I've chosen this large black pattern for the tying instructions to give you the best possible visual details while learning the concept. Once learned well and practiced this same pattern can be applied to any stonefly nymph species. By simply varying the hook size and shape, or the material colors, you can match the natural in any area you choose to fish. Just make sure the proportions stay consistent as the hook sizes change.