

On The Fly

April 2012

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

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: Chan's Chironomid

Hook: Daiichi 1150, Curved heavy wide gap, 16 - 22.
Thread: 8-0 black.
Tail: White poly yarn or Z-Lon
Ribbing: Fine silver tinsel or wire.
Body: Thread
Wingcase: Pheasant tail fibers.
Thorax: Peacock herl.
Head Gills: White poly yarn or Z-Lon.



Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise.

Step 2: Start the thread one eye width behind the eye and lay down a smooth thread layer to a position 1/3 the way down the bend.

Step 3: Separate out a small portion of the poly yarn and tie it on top of the shank at the current thread position. Tie the butts down along the top of the hook shank with spiral thread wraps, forward to the thread starting position. Trim the excess.

Step 4: Tie in the ribbing at the front and secure to the top of the shank with spiral thread wraps rearward to the base of the tail. Leave ribbing hang to the rear.

Step 5: Form a tapered body with the tying thread, ending at the thorax area.

Step 6: Wind the ribbing forward over the body in 5 evenly spaced turns to the thorax area. Tie off and trim excess.

Step 7: Select 3-4 brown pheasant tail fibers, tie them in with the tips pointing rearward on top of the thorax area

Step 8: Select 1 or 2 peacock herls, tie them in on top of the thorax area, and wind them forward 4-5 turns forming the thorax. Tie off and trim excess

Step 9: Separate another small portion of the poly yarn and tie it on across the top and perpendicular to the hook shank, just in front of the thorax. Secure with figure 8 wraps. Don't trim the excess length at this time

Step 10: Pull the pheasant tail fibers forward over the top of the thorax and gill area and secure with firm thread wraps and trim the excess

Step 11: Form a neat tapered head, whip finish and cement.

Chan's Chironomid is the creation of Brian Chan from Kamloops, British Columbia. Brian is known the world over for being the Guru of Stillwater chironomid fishing and tying. Beside being a respected author, Brian just happens to be a fisheries biologist in the wonderful trout lakes of the Kamloops. He and Skip Morris have co-authored the excellent book, *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes*.

This month fly, Chan's Chironomid, imitates the pupa stage of the "midge". emerging to the surface to hatch. After leaving the bottom the pupa makes the sometime long slow journey to the surface, leaving them venerable and easy pickings for hungry trout who consume them in huge quantities. Although midges are usually associated with lake fishing, hatches are also common in many rivers but the pupa tends to be one or two hook sizes smaller than their stillwater cousins. That unidentifiable hatch you've experienced at dusk on your favorite river may be a midge hatch.

Tying tips:

Variations for the hundreds of different species can be as simple as varying the hook size and the body or rib color. Common body colors are black, gray, gray olive, red, tan, or dark brown. Some tiers claim that a red rib makes all the difference for success. You can add a bead in many color choices for added weight. They are easy to tie, use common materials, and don't take up a lot of room. I would always keep a small box full of size and color variations in my vest at all times.

So tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.