

OSPREY FLY BOX

LIQUID LACE CHIRONOMID

contributed by Sandy McKinlay

Liquid Lace is a specially designed product for tying natural shiny waxy looking bodies on flies. The translucent qualities of this material allow you to tie a body of any colour you desire. Before use the Liquid Lace must be filled with mineral or baby oil. Fill a "tiny" syringe with the oil, insert the needle in one end of the lace and inject the oil until it comes out the other end. Tie off one end and now you are ready to start tying.

Liquid lace can be used as the over body for any fly that has a segmented translucent abdomen.

Start tying your fly as you have in the past with the tail, if any, tied in first. Run your thread back to

where your thorax will begin, then tie in your lace with four wraps of thread to lock in the oil. Sparsely tie the lace back to the tail along the hook stretching the lace. Again tie your lace in with four wraps. With the use of permanent ink pens, or any desired colour of materials such as crystal flash, you can dress the underbody. When you start applying the lace stretching it releasing tension as you wrap towards the thorax to give you a nice tapered body. Tie off your lace with four or five wraps and continue finishing your fly in the normal manner.

Using clear liquid lace, white thread, and permanent ink markers, this chironomid pattern can be tied in a number of different colour variations.

MATERIALS

Hook:	Tiemco 2857, #10 - #14 (<i>weighted</i>)
Thread:	White or grey
Underbody:	Thread (<i>coloured to suit with permanent ink markers</i>)
Overbody:	Clear Liquid Lace
Wingcase:	Pheasant tail fibers
Thorax:	Peacock Herl
Gills:	White sparkle yarn

Note: A water based head cement must be used with Liquid Lace.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1 Debarb the hook and place in the vice. Weight the thorax area with a three or four wraps of lead wire. Secure the lead wire in place with the tying thread.



Step 2 Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook, ensuring that there are no gaps. Bring the thread forward to the thorax in tight wraps to achieve a nice smooth tapered body through the thorax.



Step 3 Tie in the liquid lace just behind the thorax with four tight wraps to secure. Stretch the lace back along the top of the hook and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook. Secure at the back, again with four tight wraps. Advance the thread back to the thorax.



Step 4 "Paint" the body with permanent ink markers. In this case, we have given our chironomid a red butt and an olive body. "Dye" several inches of tying tread with the same colour used for the body. Before proceeding, let the ink dry.



Step 5 Stretch the lace and begin wrapping forward, releasing tension as you wrap towards the thorax. This will give you a nice tapered body. Tie off the lace with four or five wraps of thread. Wrap the thread forward to just behind the eye of the hook.



Step 6 Tie in six to eight pheasant tail fibres to form a wingcase, with the tips protruding out over the eye of the hook.



Step 7 Take a strand of white sparkle yarn, double it and secure it in place so that one end is on each side of the wingcase, and both are protruding forward in front of the hook.



Step 8 Tie in two strands of peacock herl by the tips. To strengthen the herl it can be wrapped around the tying tread to form a "rope". Wind the peacock herl forward and back to form a thorax. Tie off and trim the remaining peacock herl at the rear of the thorax.



Step 9 Pull the pheasant tail fibers back over the thorax, dividing the gills in the process. Tie in a back of thorax.



Step 10 Trim the excess wingcase material and whip finish at the rear of the thorax. Apply a drop of water based head cement. Trim the gills even with the eye of the hook.



Step 11 The completed Liquid Lace Chironomid viewed from the top.

