

OSPREY FLY BOX

ARTICULATED STONEFLY NYMPH

contributed by
Peter Caverhill

This isn't a favorite fly of mine but it is rather neat! The pattern comes from a local angler in Skeena Country. This fly is all that he uses for steelhead there, and he is apparently very successful with it. I tied up a dozen for a recent trip to the Skeena, Bulkley and Morice Rivers. I didn't exactly copy the model pattern that was given to me, but I don't think it matters that much.

Because the fly is articulated (jointed), it provides some movement in the river's currents. I fished it on a floating spey line (across the stream with a swing), and it DID catch a couple of steelhead, so I was quite impressed that it worked according to local hoyle.

I think that this fly, tied in different sizes and with different color materials, would have lots of worth for trout fishing anywhere.

The tie isn't lazy and quick, but it is sort of fun to do. Here are a few suggestions for those who want to give it a try:

1. The hook (this is a 2 hook construction project) – I used Mustad Signature fly hooks in size #4 for both hooks. It's hook S80-3906 (nymph sproat) is quite a robust wire unit. These hooks are fairly inexpensive.
2. I tied a number of the rear hook portions of the fly in anticipation of subsequently joining them to the front assembly (tail is brown goose biots - splayed; rib is stretchy, tubular plastic of small diameter; body is dubbed brown "fur" mixed with any shiny additives). This rear hook is finished-off with a tiny head.
3. The finished rear hook (representing the tail and abdomen of the nymph) is connected to the front hook using a stiff line like "fire wire". For these flies I used braided mono that was green and is normally used as a stiff shooting line with fly line heads. It was green in colour, but this is not necessary. The stiff line is threaded through the eye of the rear hook and the loop that is formed is wrapped onto the forward hook (wrap this forward then pull it back, and overwrap it to the rear to ensure that it will not pull out under strain from that 25 pounder).

MATERIALS

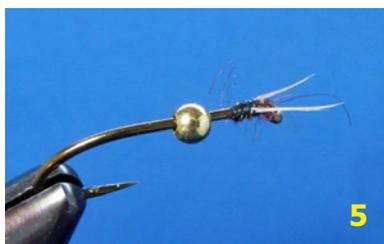


4. The front hook, containing the stonefly's thorax and wing buds, consists of a dubbed fur body (same as the rear but without the rib). There is a brass bead on the front of this hook that was placed there before the front hook went into the vise. I found it a bit of work to get the bead onto this particular hook, but it eventually worked.
5. The front hook, complete with brass bead, (now in the vise with the rear assembly trailing behind) will receive a pair of goose biots in front of the bead (antennae). These are fiddly to do and will be fragile, so to simplify the tie you could omit them. Dub the same fur as the rear hook up to the brass bead; tie in two small clumps of stacked moose hair (body hair) separated by dubbing on top behind the bead as a stubby vestigial wing, and also tie in a bit of stacked moose hair underneath as a throat; tie it off behind the bead and add some head cement for the finish. NOTE – it doesn't hurt to add super glue such as zap-a-gap, from time to time, to assist the materials to stay in place.
6. The final step is the most fun but it is the most dangerous! Take a pair of stout wire snippers and cut the forward hook at the hook bend. The cut piece will fly like a bullet, so hold it well away from your face! There you are -----FINISHED.

Hook:	Mustad Signature S80-3906 Nymph Sproat Size #4
Bead:	Brass 5/32
Thread:	Black
Tail & Antennae:	Biots - Peacock or Brown Goose
Dubbing:	Dark Brown Nohair Sparkle Blend (instructions to follow)
Rib:	Stretch Black Rib
Hook Joint:	Firewire or alternative
Over Wing:	Moose Hair

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Photography by Peter Chatt



- Not knowing the fur that Peter used, I used a Mohair blend. I used equal lengths of Black and Brown Mohair, take the wool and pull or unwind the center strand as it will not blend,
- Clip or cut into your blender or what you mix your dubbing in, then clip sparkle into the blend to your liking. Sparkle can be bought in a bag or clipped sparkle chenille.

- Debarb the trailer hook and lay a thread base to the bend of the hook.
- Put a very small turn of dubbing on the hook. This will help prevent the biots from moving.
- Mount the biots one on each side of the hook. They should form a "V".

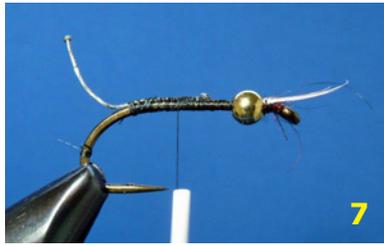
- Tie in the black vinyl rib in front of the biots.
- Dub the mohair onto the thread.

- Form a tapered body. The body should extend to the eye of the trailer hook.
- Wrap the rib forward to the eye of the hook and tie off.
- Whip finish and add a drop of head cement.
- Remove from vice.

- Put the bead on the "forward hook", ensuring that the large opening faces the eye.
- Add the small bit of dubbing.
- Tie in the biots to form the antennae.
- Whipfinish and clip thread.

- Slide bead forward into place.
- Reattach the thread.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*



- Cut the firewire to length.
- Sear the ends creating a lump on the ends to help prevent slipping.



- Thread the firewire through the eye of the completed trailer fly.
- Fold firewire back and bind down with tying thread.



- Coat with Super Glue or Zap-a-Gap.
- Let glue dry before proceeding.



- Dub the rear third of the hook.
- Tie in a small bunch of moose hair for the overwing.
- Dub up to the 3/4 point of the hook.



The Finished Fly

- Tie in a small clump of moose hair on each side, just behind the brass bead.
- Dub a small head.
- Whipfinish and add a drop of head cement.



Articulated Stonefly Nymph

- Cut the forward hook at the hook bend with side cutters.