

**Fly of the Month**

*By Mike Ott*

**Muddler Minnow**

This is one of the truly classic trout flies of North America, yet it is often overlooked – or just forgotten about. The Muddler Minnow is a great baitfish imitation, and has been the inspiration to a number of great streamer patterns (Galloup's Zoo Cougar, Ray Schmidt's Rattlesnake, Marabou Muddler, etc.).



Hook: Standard Streamer Hook #4-12  
Thread: 3/0 Brown  
Tail: Matched Turkey Wing Quill Sections  
Body: Gold Tinsel or Diamond Braid  
Underwing: White Bucktail  
Wing: Matched Turkey Wing Quill Sections  
Collar: Deer Hair  
Head: Spun Deer Hair

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread at 4/3 point on hook shank. Advance thread to hook bend.
- 2) Tie in matching sections of turkey wing quill back-to-back on top of hook extending about 1 hook gap.
- 3) Tie in tinsel or diamond braid and advance thread to beginning point.
- 4) Wrap a slim, even body to just the beginning point (3/4 hook shank) and trim excess.
- 5) Tie in a small bunch of white buck-tail extending just to the end of the tail and trim excess.
- 6) Tie in matched pair of wing quill sections right on top of the underwing extending just to the end of the tail and trim excess. Whip finish.
- 7) Cut and stack a section of deer hair about 5X the hook shank diameter.
- 8) Tie in deer hair right in front of body & wing base extending to the hook point using three turns of thread progressively getting tighter. Let hair spin around the shank until tight and well flared.
- 9) Pull forward-facing hair butts backwards and make several wraps of thread in front of the hair.
- 10) Cut another section of deer hair and "spin" in front of the other.
- 11) Push firmly to pack hair tightly, form a neat head with the thread just behind the hook eye, and whip finish. Trim thread.
- 12) Trim head with scissors and razor blade to round, conical shape taking care not to cut out the collar.