

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Modified Hopper Juan's Kryptonite Caddis

A Cheap Knock-Off of Hopper Juan's Kryptonite Caddis

I do a lot of poking around on the internet to find new and unique fly patterns, fly tying materials, tying techniques, etc. I heard a lot about Hopper Juan's Kryptonite Caddis, but could not find any pattern or tying videos. In fact, I only found one place to buy them. So, after much searching and researching, I came up with this version that works quite well on the Current River rainbows and browns. It's not a hard fly to tie, looks great when wet, and can be tied in various weight configurations for a wide range of applications.



- 1) Hook: Dai-Riki #135 Size 14-16
- 2) Bead: Black Tungsten, Brass, or Glass depending on how heavy you want it
- 3) Thread: Black 8/0
- 4) UnderBody: Chartreuse Floss
- 5) Extended Body: Chartreuse Diamond Braid
- 6) Hackle: Dark Dun or Brown CDC
- 7) Collar: Black or Brown Squirrel Dubbing

Place bead on hook, and secure in vise. Start floss behind bead and wrap one layer down the hook to the bend and wrap another layer back to just behind the bead. (In fact, most of this fly is tied just behind the bead.) Start the black thread behind the bead, tie off the floss, and trim the excess floss. Use a lighter to melt a nice neat end on the diamond braid. Tie in the diamond braid body just behind the bead with the melted end out extending to just beyond the hook bend. Trim any excess. Tie in the CDC feather by the tip, and make two turns to form a collar. Tie off and trim any excess. Form a dubbing loop, and dub a sparse collar of squirrel dubbing. Whip finish and trim the thread.

I have used CDC dubbing to form a collar – pictured here – but was not as happy with the way it fished. The squirrel undulates better when tied in a loop.

I fish these down deep as a nymph, and then let it swing up in the current. I will also tie it with a glass bead and fish it as I would a soft-hackle. I suppose you could tie it in other colors, but I'm not sure why. Most of the caddis in Missouri are green or olive and actually glow chartreuse when they inflate and emerge. It also works very well in stained water because it is very visible and has good contrast between the chartreuse and the black.