

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Winter Midge – aka: Wilcox Micro Midge

One of the hot flies at Montauk this past winter season was the Winter Midge made available at Reed's Cabins store. With water running very low and clear, midges were the hot ticket (unless a BWO or caddis hatch was on.) Whenever the fish were dimpling the surface and no obvious bugs were present, this little midge worked very well.



Hook: DaiRiki 125 Size 18-24

Thread: 12/0 Black

Body: Micro Tubing – Black, Red, or Brown

Wing/Gills: Midge Sparkle Braid

Hackle: Grizzly

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread just behind hook eye.
- 2) Use a butane lighter to melt the end of the tubing so there is a small bulb on the end.
- 3) Tie in tubing at thorax so that the melted end extends back about a hook gap beyond the bend.
- 4) Trim the excess.
- 5) Melt the end of the midge braid end so that it does not unravel.
- 6) Tie in on top of the body extending about the same length as the body.
- 7) Wrap down and leave a tag extending two or three eye-lengths beyond the hook eye.
- 8) Wrap a grizzly hackle over the thread base holding other materials on hook.
- 9) Whip finish and trim thread.

This is a rather simple fly to tie as long as you keep your wraps close and the fly compact. After some research, I found that this fly is also known as the Wilcox Micro Midge. I treated the fly with WaterShed, and the fly tended to float vertically by the hackle with the body dangling below. I fished this behind a parachute dry for visibility – I found it hard to see a #22 fly sitting in the film even at a rod's-length.