

Fly of the Month

by Earl Schenberg

WD-40

So simple yet So good.

MATERIALS:

Hook: Tiemco 2488 Sizes 16 - 24.

Thread: 8/0 Rusty Brown (or color to match Thorax).

Tail: Wood Duck flank.

Body: Thread.

Thorax: Rusty Brown Hare's Ear dubbing (or color to match).

Wing-case: Wood Duck flank pulled over thorax.



The WD-40 is a mayfly/midge imitation and with that in mind should be tied in a variety of sizes and colors. Some favorites are Olive, Chocolate Brown, Black, Gray, and Rust. Tie up a bunch in a variety of sizes and colors and you will be surprised at how well such a simple tie can produce. Tie this fly in sizes 16-26.

1. Start the thread at the eye lay down the base approximately half way down the bend of the hook.
2. Tie in a clump of Wood Duck to form the tail. The tips should be extending back off the bend of the hook and the tail should only be about a gap of the hook in length. From the tie in point completely coat the shank of the hook with thread while tying down the butts of the tail. Tie them down to about three thread wraps past the point of the hook. DO NOT cut them off. These will form your wing case.
3. Fold the butts back toward the tail and tie them down so that they are tied down just above the point of the hook.
4. Dub a small egg shaped thorax leaving just enough room for the head.
5. Pull the wing case over the thorax and use two thread wraps to secure it.6. Now pull back 3-5 Wood Duck fibers onto each side of the thorax and tie them down using minimal thread wraps. These will form the legs. Build the thread head while whip finishing in order reducing the amount of bulk. The legs can be left out if you would like, the original pattern does not call for them but it can be a nice touch.
6. Cut the legs so that they are just longer than the thorax.

Since the WD40 came on to the scene, it has made a mark for itself as an effective fly fished in the surface film, just under the surface or swept up from the deeper zones the Gray WD40 is a fly to have when your fishing tail waters, spring creeks, and waters with good concentrations of midge and mayflies. You should not venture out without this pattern tied in gray, brown, olive and black in your fly box.