

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Rowley's Balanced Leech

With winter in full swing, fewer insects are active and streamers are the best search patterns. I really like leech patterns because they can be stripped, swung, or dead-drifted as the conditions dictate. In addition, most leech patterns are easy to tie, durable, and catch fish under a variety of conditions. OFF member and IFFF Gold Fly Tier, Jim Hudson, introduced me to this pattern a couple of years ago, but it really didn't take hold until recently when I was experimenting with winter urban trout.

While basically a mohair leech, the design makes the leech hang horizontally – even more so than a standard jig head – and dance when twitched; an action that seems to drive trout crazy.

Hook: Barbless 90 degree Jig Hook Size 8-12
Post: Standard Sewing Pin
Beads: Appropriately sized Tungsten Bead
in your favorite color, and Ruby Red Glass bead
Thread: Brown 8/0
Tail: Brown Marabou
Flash: Root Beer Flashabou
Body: Canadian Brown Mohair

1. Place Tungsten Bead on sewing pin first and slide to the pin head,
2. then slide the ruby bead behind it.
3. Secure hook in vise, start thread behind the eye and advance to
4. hook bend.
5. Wrap pin onto the top of the hook shank, cement well, and wrap
6. thread to hook bend.
7. Tie in a marabou tail about 1 ½ times the hook shank.
8. Tie in two strands of flash on each side of tail.
9. Tie in mohair and advance thread to hook eye.
10. Wrap mohair to the hook eye and add a few wraps to hide the pin
11. and hook eye.
12. Secure mohair with thread wraps, and whip-finish.

I like to fish these under an indicator with no-slip loop knots. The fly is free to dance and swim around. I also slip off my indicator and experiment with various retrieves. Also try various colors – olive, brown, black, ginger, etc.

