

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Coffey's Sparkle Minnow

This month's speaker, Ryan Hudson of Wyoming Fishing Company, did a great job of showcasing the streams he fishes and tying several of his "guide flies" for us. As guide flies, their key attributes are that they are durable, easy to tie, and very effective. One of the flies that really caught my eye was his Sparkle Minnow.



The original Coffey's Sparkle Minnow was tied using a dubbing loop and gold Lite Brite combed out all around the hook shank with another dubbing loop of white pulled up under as the belly. Ryan's (and many others now) uses Ice Dub tied in in bunched and brushed out. That method simplifies the process significantly and allows for a wider variety of colors and patterns. We'll just tie his version.

Hook: Heavy Streamer Hook #4 to #8
Head: Gold Tungsten or Brass Cone (back-loaded with lead wire)
Thread: 3/0 White
Tail: White and Ginger Marabou
Flash: Gold Crystal Flash
Top: Gold Ice Dub
Bottom: UV Minnow Belly Ice Dub
Lateral Lines: Olive or other dark Ice Dub

- 1) Place cone on hook and secure in vise. Add 10 or so wraps of lead wire and shove securely up into cone.
- 2) Start thread behind lead wire and make a number of spiral wraps up and back over the lead wire to secure it in place. Advance thread to hook bend.
- 3) Tie in the bottom half of the tail of white marabou about the length of the body. Tie in the ginger marabou directly over the white. Add several strands of crystal flash on each side and trim to just beyond the end of the marabou.
- 4) Start building the body by teasing out a section of gold Ice Dub and tying in on top of the hook and teasing back toward the tail. Tie in a similar section of the white on the bottom of the hook.
- 5) Continue until reaching half-way up the hook shank. Then add a small section of the darker lateral line Ice Dub material along each side in addition to the gold on back and the white on the belly.
- 6) Continue to the front until the last bunches actually tuck up under the collar of the cone.
- 7) Whip finish and trim thread. Comb or brush the body material toward the rear to help even out the appearance of the finished fly.

As with any streamer, show it to as many fish as possible. Cast slightly upstream, let it sink and let the belly in your line build across the current, and then strip back slightly downstream and then across back to you. This is a great trout and smallmouth bass fly as well as being a great warm water fly. Try a variety of colors from all dark to all white. Look at all the colors Ice Dub comes in to mix and match your favorite.