

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

The Mackie Bug

What's not to like about bluegill? Nothing says summer like bluegill suckin' down flies at your local pond. You don't have to drive three hours to get to them, you don't have to get up at the crack of dawn to catch them, and they are usually not terribly finicky about flies or presentation. There are some sure-fire flies, though, that make catching them easier.

The Mackie Bug, reportedly an Ed Story concoction, represents everything that's good and decent in a bluegill fly – it has rubber legs, it has contrasting colors, and it's easy to tie. It sinks horizontally while the rubber legs quiver enticingly making big panfish come unglued.

Hook: TMC 3769 or 3761 #10

Thread: 8/0 Black

Weight: .020 Lead or Lead-Free Wire

Tail: Clear with Silver Flake Sili-Legs

Abdomen: Black SuperBright Dubbing

Ribbing: Brassie Size Copper Wire

Legs: Clear with Silver Flake Sili-Legs

Thorax: Fluorescent Chartreuse SuperBright Dubbing

- 1) Secure hook in vise. Add 10-12 wraps of lead or lead-free wire to hook shank.
- 2) Start thread behind hook eye and secure lead wire to center portion of hook shank, and advance thread to hook bend.
- 3) Tie in two sections of the Sili-Legs as a tail extending out the rear about 1 ½ the hook length so that they form a V.
- 4) Tie in a section of the copper wire for ribbing.
- 5) Dub a tapered body of the black SuperBright dubbing to about the 2/3rd point of the hook shank.
- 6) Wrap the copper ribbing in even wraps to get 5 or 6 wraps. Tie off at thorax.
- 7) Tie in two sections of the Sili-Legs so that they form a V on each side of the hook – one leg extending over the top and the other along the side of the body. Trim so that they extend just to the hook bend.
- 8) Dub a thorax of the Fluorescent Chartreuse SuperBright Dubbing. Whip finish and trim thread.

I fish this by casting out, counting it down to depth, and then stripping it back in 2-3 inch strips. Start with a 3 or 4 count sink, and extend until you find the fish. Remember to bend down the hook barb so that the bluegill are easier to unhook. You can also experiment with the leg color and the thorax color. Try chartreuse legs on the original, or a red thorax with the clear legs, etc.

