

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Charlie Craven's Poison Tung

We're finding out now that quite possibly the number one source of trout food day in and day out is midge larvae. They are present and active in all virtually streams in all seasons. That being said, there are countless books dedicated to imitating these bugs and fishing them successfully. One of the most prolific fly tyers, Charlie Craven of Charlie's Fly Box, has come up with a most unusual and effective pattern – the Poison Tung.



While it is basically a thread midge, it is the color scheme that sets it apart. The gray body, peacock blue wire rib, and the UV gray collar make it really stand out. This is especially effective in winter months for some reason even though I doubt that it mimics any color in nature. Apparently the color blue is more visible at greater depth where most trout reside when the water temperature plunges. In addition, the angle and amount of sunlight make UV rays even more sparse. Either way, I'm excited to try it out this winter.

Hook: TMC2488 or Dai Riki 125 Sizes #16-22
Bead Head: Silver Tungsten to hook size
Thread: 8/0 or 12/0 Gray
Body: Tying Thread
Ribbing: Fine Lagartun Peacock Blue or UTC Gunmetal Blue
Collar: UV Gray Ice Dub

- 1) Put bead on hook and secure in vise
- 2) Start thread behind bead
- 3) Wrap wire down as you wrap the thread to just around the bend.
- 4) Wrap a very thin level body of the tying thread and leave it behind the bead.
- 5) Evenly space the wire rib wraps to behind the bead, tie off, and trim excess.
- 6) Dub a very sparse collar of UV Ice Dub behind the bead.
- 7) Whip finish and trim thread.

Fish this as you would any thread midge – dead drifting on fine tippets and long leaders. However, this is an unconventional pattern so don't be afraid to experiment. Add a little movement, add a dropper, fish it as a dropper, whatever. It should be interesting to watch fish react to it and make adjustments.