

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

The Dust Mop Fly

While I am not a big fan of competitive fly fishing, I do believe that we can all learn something from the guys who travel around the world fishing for trout of all kinds in a wide range of habitats for a living. I appreciate the ingenuity and the simplification of fly patterns and techniques that just catch fish effectively and efficiently under a wide range of circumstances. I also like to stay abreast of new and inventive fly tying styles, materials, and patterns. That being said, I also find myself resisting what I, as a fly tier, deem somewhat beneath “quality fly tying”. Yes, I can be a fly tying and fly fishing snot – think Squirmy Worms.



So the Mop Fly comes along – originally in white now in a rainbow of colors – and I scoffed. The white Mega Worm looks like a gut-fly. What else can it look like? The chartreuse is supposed to look like a caddis – about an inch and a half long. Then Steve Antonic brings some to an outing and swears they work. Then Lance Egan, U.S. Fly Fishing Team, convincingly wins the U.S. National Championship finals near Lake Placid, NY using a green Mop Fly. I can no longer afford to be a fly snot. Fly Fisherman Magazine writes an article about it, and Flymen Fishing Co. calls “the most sinful fly of all time.” It is ridiculously easy to tie, and does really work “anywhere, every how, and anyway.”

Hook: Your favorite scud hook #8 -12, or barbless jig hook size 8-12

Bead: Black Tungsten regular or slotted for jig hook of appropriate size

Thread: Color to match body color

Body: “finger” of chenille from Micro-Fiber Dust Mop – Chartreuse, Pink, Cream, Tan, Orange, etc.

Collar: Optional SLF Black or Peacock dubbing

- 1) Pinch down barb of hook (better yet, use a barbless hook), place a bead on the hook and secure in vise.
- 2) Start thread behind bead and advance toward hook bend.
- 3) Cut one “finger” of chenille from the dust mop at its base.
- 4) Secure to hook shank with thread wraps with the finished end to the rear extending out past the end of the hook. You can adjust the length a bit by trimming the cut end, but that’s not normally necessary.
- 5) Dub a collar of the Ice Dub between the end of the body and the bead. Whip finish and trim thread.

Apparently you can fish this fly any way you want. Try dead-drifting alone or as the anchor fly. Reportedly you don’t have to be particularly skilled or pay particular attention to your fly’s drift because the fish don’t care. Still, though, I have to believe the better the drift, the more effective the fly and the fisherman. For a little more fun, Google it and see just how this fly has set the fishing world on fire.