

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Craig Mathews' Wired \$3 Dip

This is one of those flies I forgot I had until I needed it. When Craig Mathews from Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, MT was here for our all-day meeting, he demonstrated a number of his original flies as well as some of his "guide flies". If you don't know, a guide fly is one that is easy to tie in bulk, takes a minimum of materials, is durable, and catches fish with great regularity. I liked this little midge pattern, so tied up a half dozen and put them in the perfect corner of my midge box – only to be forgotten. With the lower water this fall, I needed an intermediate-weight midge fly and this one was just the ticket. It is very fast and easy to tie, very durable, and really does catch fish.



Hook: Dai-Riki 070 size 16-20

Thread/Body: 6/0 Danville "Color #47" Brown

Ribbing: 1 each Small Ultra Wire Hot Orange and Copper Brown

Wing Pad: Fine Deer Hair

- 1) Secure Hook in vise and start thread just behind hook eye. Advance thread to rear of hook and slightly around the bend by evenly covering hook with the thread.
- 2) Tie in a section of both Hot Orange and Copper Brown wire by making another even layer of thread.
- 3) Wrapping both wires together, evenly rib the body to just behind the hook eye.
- 4) Cut a small section of fine deer hair from the hide. Trim about ¼ inch from the tips and tie in by the closely trimmed tip so that the larger ends extend out over the body neatly on top.
- 5) Make a neat head with the thread, whip finish, and trim thread.
- 6) Gather the deer hair together and trim to about ¼ the body length.

One of the secrets is getting just the right color of thread. It is available from most good fly shops or you can order from Blue Ribbon Flies. The standard –weight hook, the double wire rib, and using the finer tips of the deer hair give it just enough weight to sink naturally and stay down without the tungsten bead. I fish it just as you would any midge, but it works very well as a dropper under a smaller dry fly. Remember to keep untwisting you're thread so as not make it too bulky.