

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

HMG Scud

I'm a sucker for anything new in fly tying. I wander through fly shops and craft stores looking for the next ingenious wonder-bug material. At this past Sow Bug Roundup, I sat down with Joe Nicklo to watch him tying his with his *HMG System*. So what's so special about yet another scud pattern? The shell back is hot melt glue applied with a soldering iron and ribbed by making impressions with 5X tippet material.



If you've ever turned over rocks or attended a Stream Team macro-invertebrate count, you know scuds are translucent in the water – translucent tan, olive, or gray. Once applied to the back of the fly, HMG is translucent in water so that you see the translucent body, a colored center, and filament legs. Now that's a good looking scud! I liked it so much, I bought the kit. They even stocked Nicklo's HMG Scuds at Feather-Craft this year.

Hook: TMC #2487, TMC#2487, or Dai-Riki #135 Sizes 12-18

Thread: 8/0 Gray

Body: Your favorite Gray, Tan, or Olive Scud Dubbing (Joe Nicklo was using the fibers from his Ford SUV floor mats)

Shell Back: Clear Hot Melt Glue

- 1) Secure hook in vise, and start thread behind hook eye. Advance thread to hook bend.
- 2) Loosely dub a fine body to just behind the hook eye. Whip finish and trim thread.
- 3) Using a dubbing brush, brush out dubbing toward the bottom of the hook to make legs.
- 4) Trim away any stray dubbing on top of hook.
- 5) Invert fly in vise.
- 6) Using the soldering iron, apply a small amount of HMG to the fly back. Be careful not to apply too much heat or you will melt the body. Add enough to coat the back and to sag down creating a bit of a bubble from the head to the tail.
- 7) After the HMG sets up a bit, turn the fly back over in the vise and make ribs by tightly stretching 5X tippet material across the back at even intervals.

There is no need to weight these flies as HMG is neutrally buoyant - it will not really sink, nor will it float. I have caught fish on these on the Current River and Tanneycomo in Missouri, as well as on the White and the Norfolk tailwaters in Arkansas. They are not really difficult to tie once you get the hang of it. If you are going to try this, try to find a lower wattage soldering iron so you won't have to work so fast before the glue discolors. Joe sells a HMG Fly Systems kit that includes a soldering iron, 4 colors of HMG, and an instruction DVD on how to tie scuds, midges, ants, and other flies.