

Fly of the Month – April 2020

Andrew Grillo's User Friendly

From the man who brought you the Hippie Stomper, comes the User Friendly. I have had great success with the Hippie Stomper and am very excited about this one. This thinner, more elegant, yet equally versatile dry fly is more of a mayfly imitation than attractor pattern. It can be tied smaller than the Hippie Stomper, but still floats better than a traditional dry style and has lots of movement and is easily visible to both fish and the angler. It is almost indestructible as well.

Materials

- Hook: TMC 100 #12 – 16 (or your favorite barbless dry fly hook)
- Thread: Veevus 14/0 Black
- Tail: Dun hackle fibers or CDL fibers
- Shell Back: Black 1mm Razor Foam
- Abdomen: Purple Dry Fly Dubbing
- Wing: Gray McFlylon or Z-Lon
- Legs: Fine round barred rubber legs White with Black Bars
- Hackle: Grizzly Neck Hackle
- Thorax: UV Purple Ice Dub

Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and start thread at mid-hook shank and advance to hook bend. Dub a small ball at the end of the hook shank, then tie in tail fibers about the length of the hook shank. Tie tail up against the dubbing ball causing them to flare a bit. Tie tail fiber butts down to hook shank to the midpoint of the hook shank and trim excess.
2. Cut a section of razor foam about half the hook gap wide. Trim to a point on one end and tie in on top of the hook at the base of the tail.
3. Dub a thin tapered body to the mid-point of the hook. Pull the razor foam over the body, tie down but leave the excess out over the hook eye. Use crossing thread wraps over the foam back to the hook bend and back to the midpoint to secure.
4. Wrap forward to secure the foam to the hook eye. Tie in about half a strand of McFlylon crosswise like spinner wings. Lift both wings and make a couple of wraps around them to form something of a parachute post.
5. Tie in two sections of round barred rubber legs along the thorax– one on each side – so that it they come out just behind the hook eye and just in front of the body. Tie in an appropriately-sized grizzly hackle just ahead of the body, and then dub the UV Purple Ice Dub thorax to the hook eye.
6. Make 2 turns of hackle behind the wing and two more in front of the wing. Tie off the hackle and trim excess.
7. Lift the razor foam, make a few turns, and then whip finish the thread. Trim the foam about two eye-lengths out in front of the hook eye. Trim the rings to just above the hackle, and trim a v-notch in the hackle on the bottom of the hackle in line with the hook point.

Charlie Craven has a great tutorial at Charlie's Fly Box. This is Andrew's original black and purple version, but you can also tie it in other colors to match a local hatch. This fly floats very well especially when dressed with floatant, and is great to use in a dry/dropper rig as well.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers

