

Fly of the Month – January 2021

Bling Midge

Winter is when trout fishing really starts getting technical here in Missouri. Water gets low and clear, and the fish have had a long summer and fall and have already been subjected to a lot of fishing pressure. Winter is also a time when the bugs take a break too. They tend to be very small and only really emerge on just the right days and for a fairly short time. This is either streamer time or midge time. The streamer game is a young guy's sport – a "hero or zero" kind of day. Midges produce year round but especially now -but not your typical tungsten bead-thread midge variety. They do work, but they've seen 'em all. This season calls for something different.



The Bling Midge is a very minimalistic midge pattern that includes just a hint of flash – that glimmer of life. It can be tied in just about any color and on a variety of hooks, and it can easily be tied down into the #20 - #24 sizes if need be.

Tying Materials

- Hook: Pictured on Lightning StrikeSE7 but I now prefer the Firehole 316 in #18 - 22
- Thread: Color of body – Red, Olive, Brown, etc.
- Rib: Black or Brown Tying Thread or X-Small Wire
- "Bling": Opal Flashabou
- Head: Black Tying Thread
- Coating : Head Cement or Thin UV Cure (I like Solar-Ez BoneDry)

Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and start thread just behind hook eye. Wrap back to hook bend in very flay touching thread wraps. Remember to keep the body slim.
2. Tie in ribbing material at hook bend, and wind thread back to about the 2/3rd point on the hook shank. Spiral wrap rib material to the thread and secure. If using black thread, clip off the body color thread and continue with black thread.
3. Tie in opal flashabou and advance thread to hook eye. Make several wraps of flashabou at the collar and tie off.
4. Trim excess flashabou and form a head of black thread and twice the thickness of the body.
5. Whip-finish and trim the thread.
6. Coat with your favorite cement and let cure.

I typically fish these to those fish you see hovering near the surface or in shallow water obviously feeding on whatever bugs you cannot see coming down to them. like to fish them in tandem with other unweighted midge or BWO patterns – Barr's Emergers, JuJu Bees, etc. will also fish these under a parachute dry fly as a dropper, or under a mini-egg pattern as an attractor. While tungsten bead midges certainly have their place, these are much more of a finesse style pattern that catches fish when everything else is rejected.

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