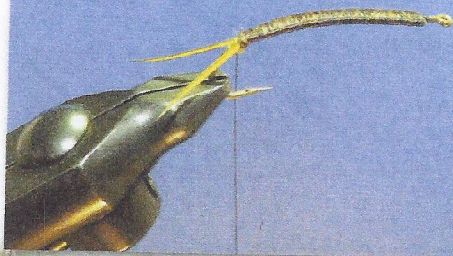


1



HOOK-UP STONEFLY

Hook: Tiemco TMC200R, Dai-Riki 270, or a similar 3X-long curved-shank hook, sizes 8 to 4.

Thread: Brown 3/0 Monocord.

Tail: Amber or brown goose biots.

Abdomen: Dubbing, color to match the local crayfish.

Back and wing case: Natural oak mottled Thin Skin.

Rib: Brown Monocord thread or medium Ultra Wire.

Thorax: Same dubbing as the abdomen.

Legs: Brown rabbit fur.

Antennae: Amber or brown goose biots.

chasing swimming crayfish. Make quick, short strips at the end of a dead drift, or make a cast up-and-across stream, allow the fly to sink, and then strip it across the current.

HOOK-UP STONEFLY

When we refer to golden stoneflies, we are usually referring to one of the species in the family Perlidae. These nymphs have the characteristic yellow-and-brown mottled backs over a yellow abdomens and thoraces. Many grow quite large (up to at least 1½ inches long), and they seem to hold a special place—and special challenge—for fly tiers.

The Hook-Up Stonefly is my attempt to make a fairly realistic-looking nymph while still using soft materials that generally make the fly look alive in the water. In addition, it's a durable fishing fly that doesn't take hours to tie, as the superrealistic beauties do. I generally tie it as a golden stonefly, although you can change colors and hook sizes to imitate other stonefly nymphs.

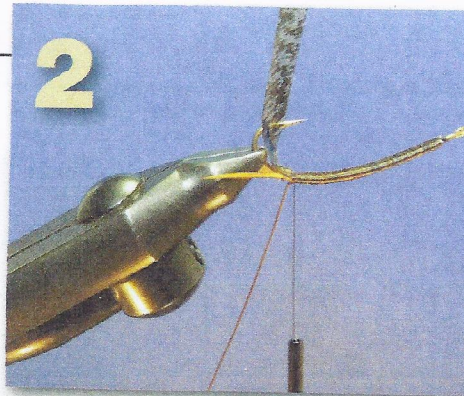
The Hook-Up Stonefly has characteristics of both the Hook-Up Hellgrammite and Hook-Up Crayfish. The hook and method for adding weight are the same. The back is made of Thin Skin, and as on the Hellgrammite, the legs are made with rabbit fur in a spinning loop; in this case, two sets of legs in two separate spinning loops.

The Hook-Up Stonefly is also tied to fish deep. Fish it anywhere you would use any other nymph, especially where you snag the bottom a lot. The hook-up design cuts down on those snags. The Hook-Up Stonefly is an excellent point fly in a two-nymph rig.

Enjoy tying and using the Hook-Up series. They are fairly realistic looking and great for fishing close to the bottom, where the fish feed.

Greg Heffner is an avid fly fisher and tier from Bath, New York. He's a licensed New York fishing guide. This is his first contribution to our magazine, and we are looking forward to more.

2



5



Tie the Hook-Up Stonefly

1 Attach the thread two eye-widths from the hook eye. Tie a piece of .035-inch lead-free wire to each side of the hook. Next, wrap a small ball of dubbing at the end of the hook shank, and tie on two goose biots for tails.

2 Turn the hook upside down in the vise. Tie on a strip of natural oak mottled Thin Skin; the width of the Thin Skin equals about half the width of the hook gap. Tie on a 6-inch piece of heavy brown thread or medium Ultra Wire.

3 Dub an abdomen halfway up the hook shank.

4 Pull the Thin Skin over the abdomen and tie it down. Spiral-wrap the rib up the abdomen. Tie off and cut the remaining piece of rib material.

5 Pull and tie down the Thin Skin to the rear of the fly. Dub the first section of the thorax; make it slightly thicker than the abdomen.

6 Make a dubbing loop. Insert rabbit fur in the first inch of the loop. Trim the butt ends in front of the loop.

7 Spin and close the loop. Raise the loop above the hook and stroke the fibers to the rear.

8 Wrap the fur like a wet fly hackle, stroking the fibers to the rear as you work. Tie off and trim the remaining piece of loop.

9 Brush the rabbit fur down the sides of the thorax. Pull the Thin Skin forward and tie it down in front of the fur.

10 Pull the Thin Skin to the rear and tie it down. Dub the next section of the thorax; leave enough room for another set of fur legs and the head of the fly.

11 Make another dubbing loop and follow the steps we used when making the first set of legs.

12 Brush the fur down the sides of the fly. Pull the Thin Skin over the top of the fly, tie it off, and cut the surplus.

13 Tie in two goose biots for antennae. Build up the thread head, whip-finish, and clip. Trim the rabbit fur on the bottom of the fly. Pluck any long strands of fur to shorten the legs as necessary.

