



Spring Creek Flycraft and Guide Service

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Fly Tyers Corner

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Bill's 12-Step Stonefly Version 2

by Bill Carnazzo



This pattern is v.2 of a time-tested, successful fly proven in the crucible of actual on-stream experience. The [original version](#), initially featured in the July, 2008 Leader, can be found in the fly tying archives on the GBF web site; that article is worth reading for the background on the fly. The v.2 modifications, designed to streamline the bug and simplify the tying process, are few in number but are significant enough to warrant the "v.2" moniker. You will note that the addition weight to the hook shank is optional in this version; I have been experimenting with unweighted versions of various flies, including this one, and the results are interesting. Where no weight is used on the flies, getting them down near the bottom requires addition of a little extra weight to the leader. The benefit of this is that the flies will drift more naturally in the current while still sinking to the bottom where they belong. The jury is still out on this concept, but I intend to continue experimenting with it. Let's tie up a Golden Stonefly version of this nymph.

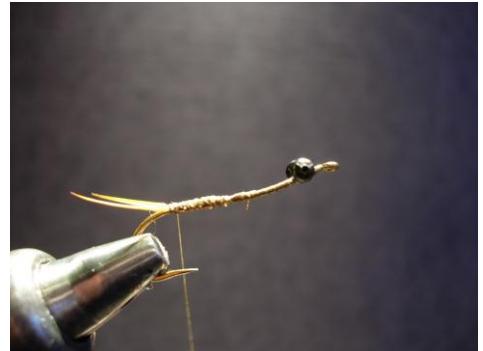
Materials

Hook: Daiichi 1260, Tiemco 947, or similar hook, sizes 6-10
Thread: Amber 8/0, or similar thread
Eyes: Small black mono eyes
Tail: Amber goose biots
Abdomen: Amber dubbing
Ribbing: Fine copper wire

Legs: Mini-size tan Turantulegs
Wing case: Mottled golden stone color Thin Skin
Thorax: Same as abdomen
Weight: Optional—not used in instructions

Tying Instructions

1. Smash the hook barb unless you are using a barbless hook. Tie the thread in just above the point of the hook and move the thread forward to near the hook eye.
2. Tie the mono eyes on about 1 eye-length behind the hook eye. It's important to leave this small space ahead of the eyes.
3. Return the thread to the rear of the hook and tie in the amber biot tails just above the back of the hook barb area. The biot tail should extend to the rear of the body no more than 1/3 of its length.
4. At the same point, tie in a short segment of fine copper wire.
5. Form a dubbing loop at the same point, and fill it with the amber dubbing material. Dub the abdomen—which will be the rear 2/3 of the hook; do not go farther forward than that. Use a stiff brush, wire brush, or similar tool to brush out the sides of the body, and pull the dubbing out to the sides with your fingers. Trim the abdomen to a "v" shape (this gives it a nice taper) back to the tail (careful not to cut the tails). Turn the fly over and trim the dubbing at the bottom of the fly so that body has a flat appearance.



6. Rib the abdomen, weaving the wire into the dubbing; this gives the dubbing the look of "gills," which stoneflies sport. Tie off the wire at the front of the abdomen.
7. Cut a tapered piece of Thin Skin that is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " in width on the widest end, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Pull the material from the backing. You will notice that one side is shinier than the other—you will end up tying it in with the shiny side down (when it's pulled over the top, this will put the shiny side on top). Tie the narrow end of the Thin Skin in at the front of the abdomen and wrap it down rearward over the dubbed abdomen; this step insures that there will be no "gap" between the dubbed abdomen and the thorax. The wide end of the Thin Skin should now be facing rearward.



8. Tie in a set of the Turantulegs just ahead of where the Thin Skin was tied in.
9. Dub the thorax, starting right where the legs were tied in so that the dubbing pushes the legs rearward; stop the dubbing halfway to the mono eyes and tie in another set of legs at that point.
10. Continue dubbing up to the back of the eyes, again allowing the dubbing to force the legs rearward, and tie the dubbing loop off there. Lightly brush the dubbed abdomen, taking care not to damage the legs. Trim the legs to approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



11. Grab the Thin Skin and pull it forward over the entire body, stretching it a bit as you do so. Tie it off behind the eyes, and then again in front of the eyes. On the remaining tab, cut a small "v" into the material, pull the material rearward, and tie it off again behind the eyes.
12. Whip finish at that point, and apply a tiny drop of super glue where the Thin Skin crosses over the mono eyes. Using a black Sharpie, color a broad stripe down the top of the abdomen. If you examine a natural stonefly, you will note that the back is dark and the bottom is light.



Tying Tips

1. Be sure to leave at least 1/3 of the front area of the hook for the thorax. This is true for all nymphs, and is especially essential for the proper construction of this stonefly pattern or any pattern where you are using a wing case.
2. When cutting out your pieces of Thin Skin, give them a slight taper so that when the material is tied in at the rear of the thorax area, the narrower end will end up at the rear of the thorax. This will give the shell back a tapered look, to match the taper of the abdomen.

Fish this stonefly through pocket water during the spring when the naturals are hatching, using a short line nymphing rig. While aggressive strikes sometimes occur, often the strikes can be subtle, so set the hook at the slightest hesitation of the rig. Go rip a few lips, and....see ya on the creek.