

Tying the crocheted caddis fly:

-compiled by Mike Sevon for the Truckee River Flyfishers

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Introduction:

The woven crocheted bodies were invented by Torill Kolbu, a Norwegian, famous for her flies and a talented flyfisherwoman. Once you understood how to tie the beginning loops, , all becomes " easy " and you can then create superb flies. Most crocheted fly patterns are wet flies as the materials are not well suited for floating flies. I have altered Torill's caddis pattern to imitate our local Hydropsyche caddis: a free living net spinning caddis that is abundant in our western Nevada rivers. I have had great luck with this fly on the East Walker and Truckee Rivers. It is heavily weighted and is fished like one would fish a czechs nymph.

Hydropsychidae is the main family of net-spinning caddisflies. Instead of building cases to live in, they build small silk nets (usually between 0.5cm and 2cm across) over crevices in rocks and logs. The current brings their microscopic prey into these traps. One larva may build and tend to more than one net. Many larvae of Hydropsyche and Ceratopsyche) secrete a white line of silk, anchored to a rock on one end. They use it to rappel between rocks in the current, just as spiders or inchworms may use their silk to move around a tree. LaFontaine popularized the trick of whitening the last foot and a half of one's leader to imitate this anchor line, noting that it improved his success and made the larvae "almost as worthwhile as the pupae and adults." On page 231 of Caddisflies, Lafontaine presents a very interesting chart relating the abundance and net mesh size of each Hydropsychidae genus to different habitat factors like river size and water temperature This the most important caddisfly family for fly anglers. They are extremely abundant in trout streams and their life cycle specifics make them very vulnerable to the trout. Hydropsyche is the best-known genus, but it is probably now the least important of the big three: Hydropsyche, Cheumatopsyche, and Ceratopsyche. All of the most important Hydropsyche species were recently reclassified into Ceratopsyche.

Here is the recipe for this fly:

Hook: Tiemco 2457 size10

Body material : Cabelas Antron yarn: Bright white and Medium Olive

Lead for body: .020 diameter lead:12 wraps

Bead head: ¼ inch black tungsten or black steel

Thorax: Hare-tron caddis green dubbed

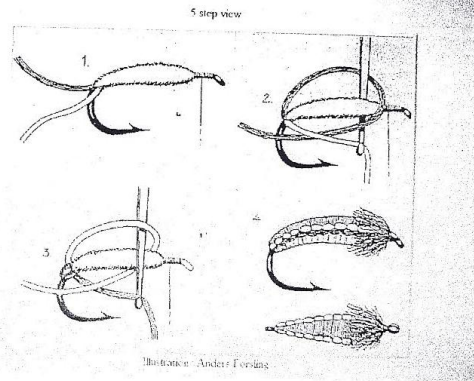
Wingcase: 6 strands of mallrd duck flank

Tail: white Z-lon

Information on crocheting flies: In May of 1995 the Fly Fisherman posted an article on Torill Kolbu and her crocheting technique. This article is available scanned at the following site:
http://drlogik.com/scans/torill_kolbu_crocheted-flies_fly_fisherman_may_1995.pdf.

I saw Torill demonstrating her technique at the Sportsmens Expo in San Mateo Loius in 1996 and was inspired to learn her tying technique. Crocheting flies is a unique technique that is very rewarding and

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very creative.

Web link for crocheting flies illustration:

1. <http://www.acc.umu.se/~widmark/fly/lwnymf2.jpg>
2. <http://www.pechetruite.com/Mouches/woven.htm>
3. <http://www.acc.umu.se/~widmark/fly/crochet.html>
4. Fly Tiers Benchside Reference: Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer, pages 203-204.
5. A great illustration of the technique: <http://www.flyforums.co.uk/fly-tying-step-step/31592-crochet-fly-sbs.html>