

MUDDLER MINNOW



The Muddler Minnow was developed by Dan Gapen in 1936 to represent Sculpin Minnows. The fly started with a sparse head and later Dan Bailey popularized the larger more dense head. I had quit tying the Muddler Minnow because of the availability of Turkey feathers that had become very scarce due to the growers switching to white Turkeys for the commercial Turkey meat industry. I can now tell you, there is a source for these feathers! The feathers used are the secondary wing feathers from crossed domestic Turkeys. If you wish to purchase some feathers to tie flies that use only these feathers, contact me and I can provide the address. The fly is very versatile, it can be fished dry, on bottom or in the middle of the water column.

Hook: Streamer hooks 4x to 6x long and sizes 6 to 12.

Thread: Gel spun or 6/0 depending on the hook size. Color is not important because it is all covered.

Tail: Paired feather slips from the secondary wing feather of a Turkey mottled brown in color.

Body: Gold tinsel

Under Wing: The one on the left uses Black Bear hair, the one on the right uses Grey Squirrel tail.

Wing: Paired feather slips from the secondary wing feather of a Turkey mottled brown in color, slightly larger than the tail.

Collar: Deer hair tied so as not to cover the body.

Head: Spun Deer hair, trimmed to suit you. It will never be perfect, the more you trim the smaller the head.



Pair 2 slips of Turkey feather and tie on the top of the Hook. Move the thread forward and secure the Gold Mylar tinsel. Wrap the tinsel back to the tail and then forward to the tie in area. Leave room for the wing and head.



Tie the Squirrel Tail hair in leaving room for the wing. Tie the Turkey feather wing in and secure.



Select a bunch of Deer Hair about two pencil diameters, clean out the under hair, stack the hair and place it round the hook shank. Make several loose wraps around the Deer hair and tighten. You do not want to spin the hair collar. Select more Deer hair, clean the under hair, trim the tips off and spin this hair around the hook shank in front of the first clump. Trim the Deer hair to the desired shape. Don't try to make it perfect. The hair will disappear before you know it. Jerry Hopewell

You can contact me for questions or classes. fluestang@comcast.net