

CHROMIE



By Bob Bates

Chironomid (midge) patterns are numerous, and everybody has their own phenomenal fish catcher. (An adult chironomid looks like a mosquito, but it doesn't bite.) This pattern by Philip Rowley came after his observation of pupae hatching into adult chironomids (midges) in a Canadian lake. He saw that the body had a silvery appearance with some red left over from the larval stage. Chironomid larvae frequently live in the oxygen poor environment of a muddy lake bottom, and they have extra hemoglobin to compensate. Philip says that this is his number one lake pattern. He has much more to say about chironomids in his book *Fly Patterns for Stillwaters*. It is also a go to pattern for many of the Washington state stillwater anglers.

Fishing the Chromie is usually a straightforward application of strike indicator (bobber) techniques. Use a floating line and long leader. Usually, the fly should be near the bottom or top of the weeds. If the strike indicator does anything unexpected like go underwater or move sideways you might have hooked a fish so strike. It might also be a weed. Usually the bobber will sink when you are watching a bird or pouring a cup of coffee. The Chromie may be fished with a regular leader, greased or not greased, to keep it close to the surface.

Materials list:

Hook: Tiemco 2457, Mustad C49S, # 8-14

Bead: Black metal, 1/8th inch for size 12 or 10 hooks

Thread: Black 8/0 - 14/0

Gills: White CDC puffs or sparkle yarn

Rib: Red holographic Flashabou, Dynafloss or fine red wire

Body: Silver Flashabou, Dynafloss or silver holographic Flashabou

Thorax: Peacock herl

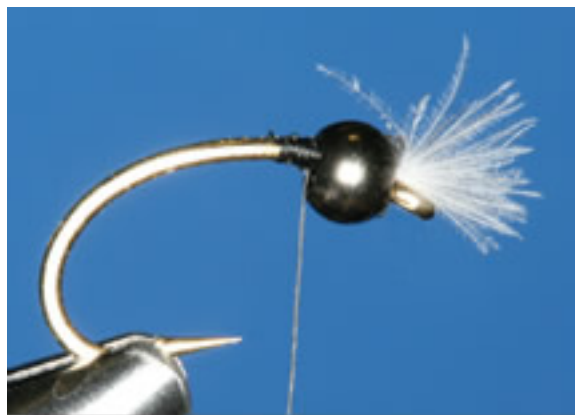
Tying steps:



1. Smash barb with smooth jaw pliers. Slip bead on hook with smaller hole toward eye. Put hook in vise with middle part of bend exposed. Slide bead to bend, and attach thread at eye. Use just enough turns to hold thread.



2. Tie on a CDC puff and pull it to a length over the eye equal to the diameter of the bead. Half hitch thread and trim it. Trim excess CDC puff.



3. Put a little head cement on thread, and slide bead forward over thread and CDC puff. The head cement helps the bead slide over everything to the eye. If the bead doesn't slide over; take it off and rethread it with the larger hole forward. On the next fly reduce the amount of thread, CDC or both. I made this switch to a CDC puff for the gill after fishing a Canadian lake and found the sparkle yarn too stiff when replacing a fly lost to a big fish. Reattach thread behind bead.



4. Tie on one piece of red holographic Flashabou. Hold it on your side of hook as you wrap over it almost to back of hook. Spiral thread forward to bead.



5. Double two pieces of silver Flashabou over the thread, and slide them down thread to secure them onto hook. Put a couple of thread winds over the Flashabou to make sure they stay in place. Return thread to bead.



6. Wrap Flashabou rearward to where rib tie down ended, and then forward to bead. A short hold, 1-inch, helps prevent splitting. Keep even tension on the Flashabou. All of the black thread should be covered. Secure Flashabou, pull it back, and wind thread over the fold back for added security. Trim excess Flashabou. Return thread to bead.



7. Counter wind the rib in an open spiral forward to the bead. Pull on red Flashabou enough to make it stay in place. Excessive tension will thin the Flashabou and it will lose color. Secure as in step 6, and trim excess.



8. Tie on two pieces of peacock herl, wind thread to bead, wrap peacock herl forward (no more than three turns), secure and trim excess. Put a little head cement on the thread and wind it between the peacock herl and the bead. Whip finish behind the bead; trim thread. Philip said that the main purpose of the peacock herl is to cover the thread winds. Some tiers skip this step, but I think it looks nice and finishes the fly. Three times coat the body with Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails or equivalent. Each time hang fly on a wire, paper cup, etc., until dry.

This fly is easy to tie if you don't let the Flashabou slip. A variation called the Motherboard is tied using the antistatic plastic protecting computer boards in place of the silver Flashabou. Have fun, and release the fish carefully so you can play with them another day.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
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