

## FFF Fly of the Month

### LARVA LACE CHIRONOMID



**By Bob Bates**

Many years ago Jan Sadlo of the Blue Dun Fly shop in Spokane, Washington developed this style of fly when he was in Southern California. He tied the pictured fly 10 years ago at our club meeting. It is a pattern that can be tied in many variations. Body colors are up to you, just match the color of the chironomids in your area. You can add gold, silver or even the new colored beads. He tied several variations for us.

Jan didn't have a fancy name for it, so we decided to call it by the key material and what it is supposed to imitate. As water warms from the ice covered cold, larger chironomids (midges) will start hatching. A midge pupa is slender with unmistakable thorax and gills, and when ready to hatch it struggles toward the surface with occasional pauses to rest. Use a floating line, attach a strike indicator to the leader and enough tippet below the strike indicator to suspend the fly near the bottom. What? You don't know how deep the water is? From a floating device, clamp forceps on the fly and lower everything over the side until the forceps touch bottom. Set the strike indicator so the fly will be 6 to 12 inches above the bottom. For fishing a stream guess at the depth and set the strike indicator to fly distance at twice the depth.

Take off the forceps, cast and watch the strike indicator. Strike if the indicator does anything unnatural: move sideways, sinks or in flowing water stops. A very slow sinking of the indicator usually means that the fly hook a weed or something. Watching an indicator for any length of time gets boring. So pour yourself a cup of coffee, and look back to see the indicator rising to the surface.

## Materials

**Hook:** Tiemco TMC 200R or any other hook, sizes 14 to 18

**Thread:** Black, 3/0 OR 6/0

**Rib:** Fine silver or gold wire

**Body:** Regular Larva Lace, color of your choice

**Wingcase:** Moose hair, pheasant tail or whatever.

**Gills:** White Antron

**Thorax:** Peacock herl

## Tying steps

1. Smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers.
2. Attach thread near front of hook, and secure wire rib.
3. Cut a piece of Larva Lace long enough to extend from the front of the hook to a little around the bend. Spiral the wire around the hook shank three or four turns to the bend. Then thread the Larva Lace onto the wire and use the wire to guide the Larva Lace onto the hook. Push Larva Lace to front of hook.
4. Spiral the wire forward in about six turns and secure tightly with thread. Trim or break off excess wire. Wrap the wire so you don't unwind the spirals on the hook.
5. Select about two dozen moose hair fibers, and secure them to the hook with the longer portion facing forward. Trim any excess facing rearward, and wrap the thread forward forcing the moose hair against the eye.
6. Secure a few white Antron fibers over the moose hair with figure eight wraps. It is easier to handle if the Antron is longer than the final desired length.
7. Secure two or three peacock herls with the longer portion facing forward. Hold the thread and herl together and wrap rearward to about the one quarter point. (I am not sure if Jan did this, but it wraps the thread and herl together strengthening the herl.) Secure herls and trim excess.
8. Pull the moose hair to rear and secure. Trim excess hair. Whip finish over hair. Pull up on Antron and trim both sides simultaneously to about 1/8-inch.

It takes a few words to describe, and it is a little difficult to slide the Larva Lace onto the hook. But it really catches fish. I need to go downstairs while

it is raining and tie a few of these for my next trip to our secret big fish lake. The body colors can be changed to fit your needs. Adding a bead can make it more attractive to the fish. Tight lines.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.  
You can direct any questions or comments to [flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org)