

PLAN-B



By Bob Bates

Into each angler's life there comes a time when the guaranteed, favorite fly doesn't work. That is the time to switch to **Plan B**. Lee Davison from Rigby, Idaho www.snakeriveroutfitters.com tied his version of Plan B at the 2006 FFF Conclave in Bozeman, Montana. I say "his version" because the original Plan B was developed by a friend and guide, Brenda Swinney, <http://www.mightyreel.com/>; however, the main similarity between the two is the name. Lee has caught fish with his Plan B so it is a proven pattern. Similarly, Brenda's pattern is proven so you might see it in the future.

On the South Fork of the Snake River and other clean rivers stoneflies provide a good food supply for the fish. They are a big mouthful. If you are fortunate, like Lee, the stoneflies hatch over a long period of time: June to September. When they are ready to hatch the stonefly nymphs crawl along the bottom to a handy rock, log or other object sticking out of the water. There they leave the shuck and eventually fly off to do their thing. The females come back to the river to lay their eggs. Sometimes they fall into the water with no way to escape. It is then that the lucky trout have a chance to feast on them.

A floating line is used to fish this pattern. You can wade and throw it into good spots. However, it is most convenient to use a boat on the larger Western rivers. Cast the fly to any spot where the stonefly might fall into the water. Don't forget the general rule to cast the fly within 2 inches of the shore because fish frequently lay in the quieter water at the edge of stream. It is a real thrill to have a big trout rip the surface trying to get your fly.

Materials List

Hook: Dry fly, size 8

Thread: Brown or black, 3/0

Tail: Antron yarn: cream, light silver or gray

Body: Variegated crystal chenille, red and olive

Over body: Brown foam 3 mm

Under wing: Antron yarn, cream, light silver or gray

Over wing: Deer hair

Change the colors to match insects in your area.

Tying Steps



1. Tie on a piece of Antron yarn to make a gap length tail.



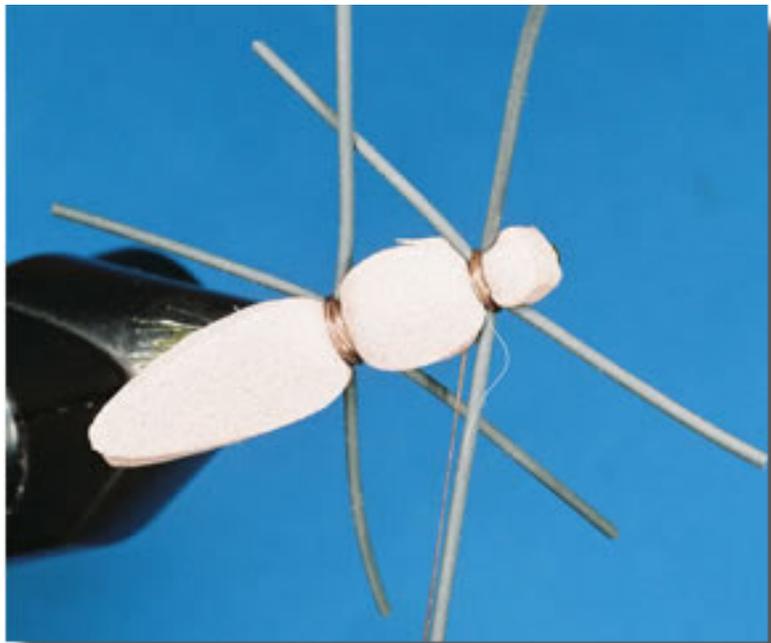
2. Select a suitable color sparkle chenille, and tie it on at the bend. Move thread to a point about an eye length back from the eye.



3. Wrap chenille forward, secure, trim excess and spiral thread rearward to a point in front of the point.



4. Trim a piece of foam and secure it over the hook point. Use a wide tie in to attach legs which will secure and prevent them from laying next to each other. Pick up front foam and spiral thread forward. Repeat tie in process for foam and legs. Trim legs.



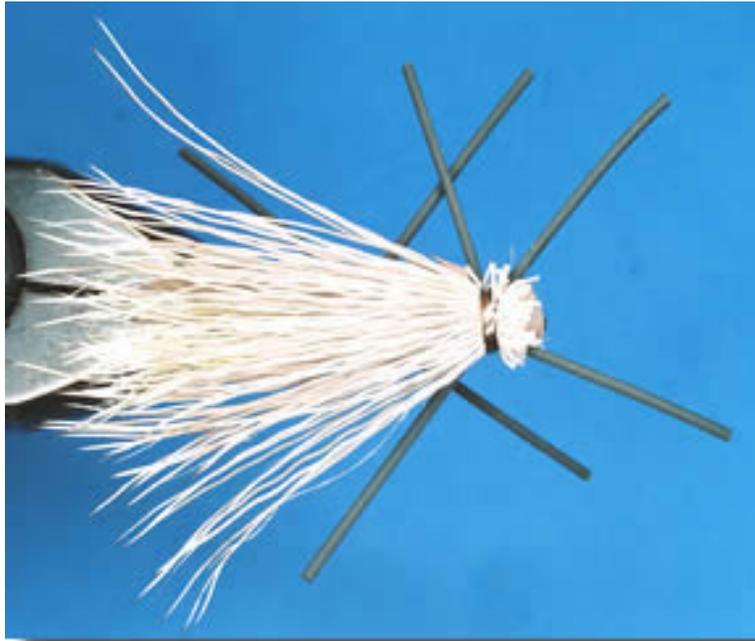
5. Top view



6. Tie in Antron Underwing. Trim excess fairly close to thread.



7. Select a clump of deer hair, clean out under fur, stack and tie over under wing. Have tips of deer hair about end of foam over body. Whip finish over wing tie in. Put a little head cement on the whip finish. Reposition fly in vise so it is upside down and put super glue on threads and chenille. It will make a much more durable fly.



8. Viewed from top or bottom the fish sees legs and fluttering wings.

Tie a few of your own Plan B patterns so you will be ready when the stoneflies in your area come out to taunt the fish.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org