

ANGORA DAMSEL



Published by Bob Bates and R.L. "Stew" Stewart
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Opening Comments

R. L. "Stew" Stewart tied this pattern at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, Washington April 3-4, 2012. Stew is from Shingletown, California. He let me photograph the steps and also gave me a compact disk with the material list and instructions for tying the Angora Damsel and two other flies. I took a lot of information from the disk.

Damsel nymphs laboriously swim around weeds and brush for most of the year before coming to the surface to migrate toward shore. There is a lot of side to side movement with little forward progress. They frequently hide under plant growth and ambush scuds, chironomids and other insects. Use a sink tip or full sinking fly line to put the fly where fish are looking for damsel nymphs. The trick to this type of fishing is to cast and count down the sink time. Then start a slow, irregular retrieve. If nothing happens let the line sink for a longer count before starting the retrieve. If you retrieve any weed, shorten the count. When you get a hit try to pull the fish out of the weeds, and remember the count. Sometimes in the excitement I forget the count. Release the fish carefully if you are not taking it home for dinner that day.

If you see a hole or channel in the weeds, retrieve the fly through it. Often a fish is hiding in the weeds ready to ambush a swimming insect.

Materials list

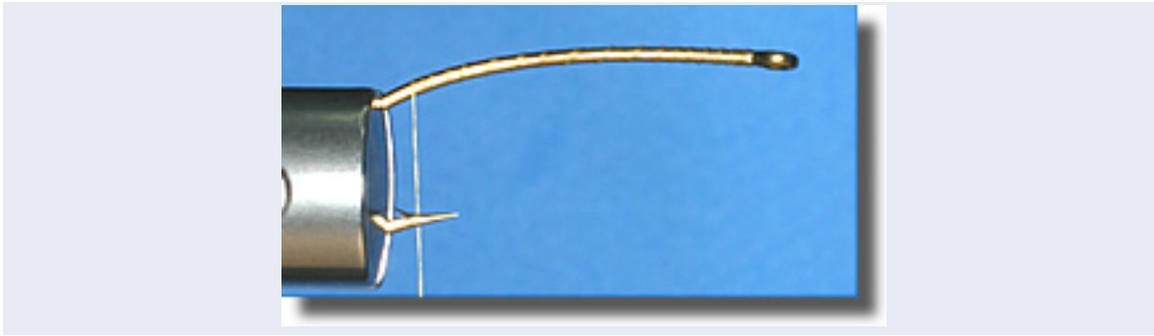
Hook: Tiemco 200R, Size #8-#14

Thread: UNI Thread, 8/0, Olive Brown

Tail: Dubbing, same as body

Body: Dubbing blend of olive brown Angora goat (Cut ¾") and rainbow or peacock Angel Hair (Cut ¼") from Angler's Choice.

Tying steps



Step 1

Apply a base thread wrap from hook eye to bend.



Step 2

Tie on a tail at the bend that extends about half a shank length beyond the bend of the hook. Wind tying thread over the butts while holding the material on top of the hook shank.



Step 3

Form a spinning loop about 5 inches long. Put one thread wind around the loop just below the hook to pull the two strands together. Then wind thread over the shank and forward to the eye. Stew prefers a Cal Bird dubbing tool. Apply super tacky dubbing wax to the thread on one side of the loop and begin sticking the dubbing on that side of the loop. Keep the dubbing sparse in the 1/3 of the loop nearest the hook and heavier toward your hand.



Step 4

You will want about 3 inches of dubbing for a size #10 hook. Hold loop at the end of the dubbing away from the hook. Twist the tool for a while and then let the loop go. The resulting strand should have a rough, shaggy appearance.



Step 5

Wrap the dubbing loop forward to the hook eye, stroke the hair back toward the hook bend with each wrap so the succeeding wrap does not bind it down. You want to maintain the shaggy look all the way to the hook eye. Tie off, whip finish, and pick out the dubbing with a bodkin, root canal tool or Velcro dubbing stick.



Step 6

Trim with scissors if you want. Sometimes Stew trims the bottom hair, as above, and at other times he leaves it untrimmed, as in Step 5. Apply head cement.

Closing Comments

Try mixing your favorite colors!!! One example is Red & Blue mixed with Black Angora.

Another good body material is Arizona “*Simi Seal*” in the following Colors #20 Canadian Black, #25 Canadian Olive, #19 Canadian Brown. John Rohmer has a total of 46 different colors of “*Simi Seal*”. Visit Web site www.azflyfishing.net

Also, tying instructions can be found in The FFF “*Patterns of the Master*”, Volume Six, Section B-Wet Fly, pages B 6-7.

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.