

NIGHT DANCER SHRIMP



Published by Bob Bates
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Opening Comments

September-October is the time of the year when many northwest U.S. steelhead addicts have their flies and gear ready. However, there is still time to tie another pattern that just might guarantee you fun with a steelhead.

However, with this pattern there is more than a glimmer of hope. Russ Osenbach from Mount Vernon, Washington was tying this pattern at the 2012 Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, Washington. For him it is a proven pattern. He has caught steelhead with it from southern California to northern British Columbia, Canada. It has the same colors as Frank Amato's Night Dancer: Red, Black and Purple. Anglers all over the western US and Canada used Amato's pattern successfully, so it is logical to have many variations of it. Trey Combs in *Steelhead Fly Fishing* tells us that he liked it so much that he tied many variations of it.

The usual way of fishing this and other steelhead patterns for many anglers is to use a floating line, cast across and downstream so the fly swings below you. If a fish boils at the fly duplicate the cast to see if it comes back. If it doesn't, then hike upstream ten steps or so and repeat the process of casting, swinging, taking one step downstream until you hook the fish or give up change flies and move to the next hot spot.

Materials list

Hook: Daiichi 2059, Alec Jackson size 5

Thread: 70 denier, black (Danville 6/0, UNI-Thread 8/0, Wapsi Ultra thread)

Tinsel: Lagarten, small oval silver

Rear Hackle: Webby, Red

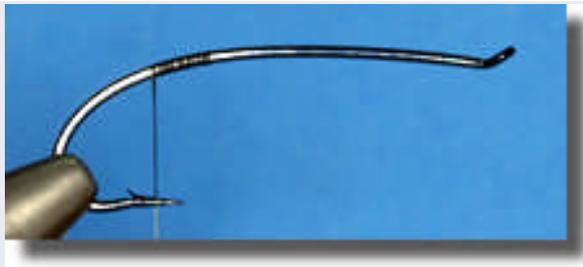
Body: Floss, black

Body veiling: Krystal Flash, UV Purple

Middle Hackle: Webby, black

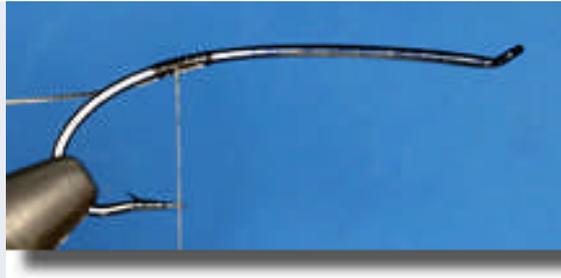
Front Hackle: Webby, purple

Tying steps



Step 1

Twist the thread counterclockwise to flatten. It will give you a small flat base that holds the materials better.



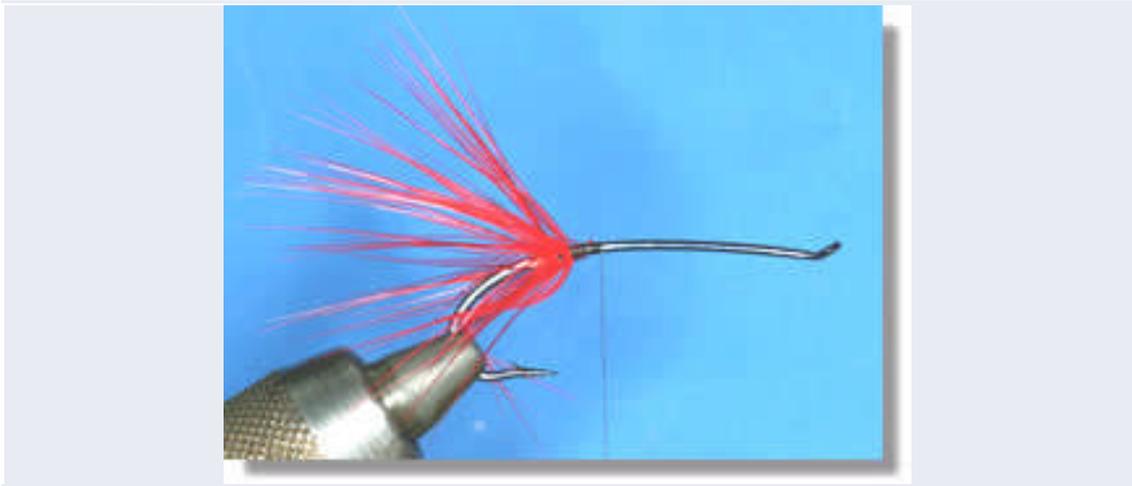
Step 2

Tie the tinsel on the bottom of the hook. Use only four thread winds to hold it.



Step 3

Make three wraps of tinsel forward, one tight against the other. Tie it off with three winds of thread, and clip off tinsel. Take a single thread wind back to where the oval is tied in. These three tinsel wraps give a little flash and keeps the hackle from falling off the back of the hook.



Step 4

Take a webby hackle (Chinese, Whiting or saltwater), pull all the fluff off the feather and break off the stem. Tie it in with three or four thread winds. Then fold the barbs back (doubling) as you wrap the hackle forward in three or four close turns. Secure it with three or four thread winds, and clip off excess feather. Wind thread back to the feather to help hold the barbs down. This is the tail.



Step 5

Tie the tinsel on bottom side of hook. Wind thread back to hackle then forward to about mid shank. Tie in a single strand of floss wrap it back to the hackle. (Having the floss spool on a bobbin makes it easier.) Hold the hackle back and put two floss wraps tight against the barbs forcing them into a cone, and wrap the floss forward to mid shank, secure it and trim. Tie down the stub of floss, and leave the thread at the front of the body segment.



Step 6

Spiral the tinsel forward in three evenly spaced wraps, secure on bottom of shank, trim excess and cover stub of tinsel.



Step 7

Take three strands of UV purple Krystal Flash, and tie it in on top of shank with two thread winds. Move thread forward so there is a little space from first to last thread wind, bring Krystal Flash back underneath and secure with three thread winds. Clip off Krystal Flash about equal to hook point.



Step 8

The Irish shrimp style uses a middle hackle that is the same color as the wing. Since the Amato Night Dancer has a black wing, pick a webby hackle, and install it at mid shank. Fold the hackle back as you wrap it four or five turns. Secure and trim excess hackle.



Step 9

Repeat Steps 5 to 7 as you build the body to about two eye widths from the eye. Complete the body veiling before moving to Step 10.



Step 10

Pick a purple webby hackle and secure it as in Steps 4 and 8. Wind it four or five turns and tie off on bottom of hook with two turns of thread. Pull hackle back, wind thread back over the excess before clipping it. This makes a very secure hackle and a small head. Flatten the thread as you do this. Put in a whip finish of four or five turns. Put on two or three coats of head cement, letting each coat dry thoroughly.

Closing Comments

Northwest anglers should get busy, and tie a bunch of Night Dancer Shrimp flies. Then head out and go fishing. Steelhead are coming into the rivers. Michigan anglers have all winter to tie flies for the springtime fishing. This fly has good credentials, and it is worth tying.

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

You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at
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