

# Midge Larva

April 27, 2003

## Midge Larva

First, some good news. Not all "midges", as they are called, are tiny. These insects are members of the order Diptera, which includes such rascals as the mosquito, the black fly, and the no-see-um. This order also includes crane flies, one of which is so large that its legs cover the span of a tea saucer.

Midges that are of value to the angler come in a wide range of sizes. Some are pretty good-sized. They are found in many diverse habitats, including cold-water lakes, ponds, and streams. The larvae vary in color.

The following pattern is a good imitation of an emerging midge larva. It is tied in the Klinkhamer style, and hangs in the surface film by the parachute hackle, with the body submerged. This style can also be used to imitate emerging mayflies, and of course, the caddis flies that the original Klink was designed to imitate.

Here's the dressing:

Hook	Daiichi model 1130, or similar. Here, a size 10.
Thread	Fine, neutral in color. Here, Camel (Medium Brown) 8/0 Uni-Thread.
Wing Post	Fine hair. Here, calf body, dyed chartreuse.
Tails	Tan Chickabou (Whiting Farms hen marabou) or fine regular marabou, tied short.
Body	Any one of a number of synthetic wraps. Here, Midge Larva Lace, amber in color.
Hackle	High quality dry fly saddle feather from Whiting Farms. Here, barred ginger. The hackle should be undersized a little; perhaps by one hook size.

Tying Steps:



*Step 1.* Stack the tips of the hair and tie in the bunch by the tip end. This creates a tapered underbody.



*Step 2.* Tie in a small bunch of the Chickabou.

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*Step 3.* Tie in a piece of the Larva Lace and wrap over it and the Chickabou, finishing with the thread up front. At the same time, stand up the wing post. It's helpful to take some turns of thread around the base of the post, in order to keep the hair neat and in place, and to create a base for the hackle.



*Step 4.* Wrap and tie off the body material.



*Step 5.* Strip the butt end of the saddle feather until prime quality material is reached. Tie the feather in on top of the hook, dull-side-down.



*Step 6.* Wrap a parachute hackle, working counter-clockwise, looking down from the top. If you don't like tying off flat hackles, and then having to make a whip finish, simply apply a generous drop of Zap-A-Gap at the "thorax" spot below the hook, being sure that the glue bonds the thread, the feather, and the bottom of the fly. After the Zap-A-Gap has dried completely, just cut off the material beneath the hook. Then trim the wing post to the desired length, and go catch some trout.

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