

OSPREY FLY BOX

ANEMIC CHIRONOMID

contributed by
Wayne Dalzell

On those days when the trout are picky and the chironomids are small, try using these patterns. Fine wire hooks, tiny lace beads and coloured tinsel go hand in hand to produce, segmented and realistic looking chironomids. Multiple layers of clear nail polish add translucence to the many colours of tinsel available today.

Anemic chironomids stand out from the others and have proven themselves in numerous lakes. They are my go to pattern and the first ones to catch fish.

To get the fly down to the target zone quicker I tie a Barrel Swivel to the end of my leader. To that tie on the chironomid with a three foot piece of tippet.

Have fun and "Go Fishing."

CHIRONOMID FACTS

- Chironomids are the most plentiful insect in most lakes.
- Multiple species exist side by side, so a pumped stomach will show chironomids of different colors. Choose your fly for the most common color found in the stomach.
- Midge pupae are larger the farther north you fish. Warmer southern water has several generations during a season so the little puppies don't take the time to grow like their northern relatives, who only hatch once per season.
- The most useful sizes are on 14, 16, and 18 hooks ... but carry these flies from size 8 through size 22.
- Olive and black are the two most common colors with tan, brown, red, green running a close second.
- The take is almost always gentle, kinda like the fish just slurps them in.

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Wayne Dalzell at the tying bench. Below a collection of his Anemic Chironomids.



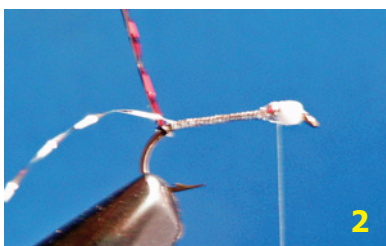
MATERIALS



- Clear tying thread, 1 ½ lb. invisible sewing thread (sewing shop), spin onto a spare spool and use with a bobbin.
- Hooks: Mustad 94833 size 14-16, Mustad 94842 size 14-16, Tiemco 2302 size 14-16, Mustad 9671 size 14-16, or any long shank dry fly hook size 14-16
- Beads - 1/16 (neck) lace beads (Columbia Beads, New West), 5/64 white epoxy brass beads
- Body Materials: Black Flashabou (Fly Angler), Red Accent (Dragonfly), Black Krystal Flash (actually dark green), Silver Crystal Flash (Super Fly) unspun to lay flat on hook.
- Birthday and Christmas ribbon have great colours, just cut in strips. Anti static bag strips (3 shades of grey, available at electronics stores). Try different materials and colours to suit.
- Hard as Nails or other clear nail polish
- Razor blade and a ruler to slice material into 1/16" thin strips

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Photography by Peter Chatt



The Finished Fly



Anemic Chironomid

- Slide a white lace bead on a long shank dry fly debarbed hook and into your rotary vice.
- Using invisible sewing thread, tie on at the bead, knot and cut the tag end off with a razor.
- Leaving a 1" tag end, tie multiple 8" tinsel strips on top of the hook, tight to the bead. Knot off. Hang the thread and bobbin over a post while the vise is spun.
- Cut the tinsel tag ends tight to the bead then lightly lay clear nail polish to the hook bend. Add a touch of red nail polish at the bend if desired.
- While lightly holding the main body tinsel in your hand, turn the vise and wrap the tinsel (over additional colours) to the hook bend.
- Wrap back any additional colour(s) over the main tinsel, pinching it in place.
- Add another layer of nail polish. Wind vice and additional colours (segmentation) back to the bead and knot off. Cut all the tag ends tight with a razor.
- Add numerous layers of "Hard as Nails" till a deep translucent brightly coloured chironomids shines back at you. Taper the nail polish to suit the thickness desired. Spin the fly in your vise to evenly distribute the nail polish around the fly and let it sit 5 min. to dry.

