

April Fly Of The Month

March Brown Nymph

By Dell Swearingen



Materials List:

Hook: DAI-Riki #730 or #285 Size 14-12

Thread: Rusty brown 6/0

Body: Tan or light brown rabbit dubbing formed into small dubbing noodle

Rib: Tan or brown vinyl-flat on one side

Backing: Brown or tan scud back and about 1/2 of hook gap turkey feather barbules

Legs: Brown pheasant hen, speckled hen saddle or partridge feather

Thorax: Tan rabbit dubbing a little thicker noodle that used on body

Head: Three wraps of small rabbit dubbing noodle covered with scud back

Tail: Three pheasant tail barbules

Rhithrogena morrisoni is the scientific name for the Western March Brown Mayfly. This fly pattern was invented by Bob Jacklin in 1970 for fishing New York streams. [Others tied similar patterns.] Bob later updated the fly with modern tying materials. This is his go-to trout fly throughout the Northwest. The Deschutes, McKenzie and Willamette Rivers all have healthy March Brown Mayfly hatches. When river levels decrease and the water temperature reaches around 47 degrees, be prepared for a March Brown hatch. This generally takes place around the March/April timeframe.

Directions:

Cover up most of the hook with touching wraps of .015 lead free wire as shown in figure 1. Leave about a 3/8 of an inch of bare hook behind the eye. As seen in figure 2, secure the wire with a covering of 6/0 rusty brown thread. Cement the wire and thread in place.



Figure 1: Round Lead Free Wire .015

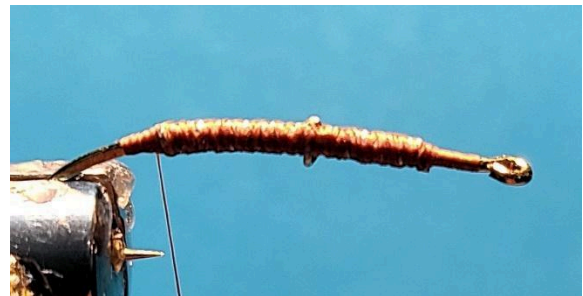


Figure 2: Cover With Rusty Brown Thread

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Make a very small dubbing noodle of tan rabbit fur and make two or three small wraps in back of the lead wire.

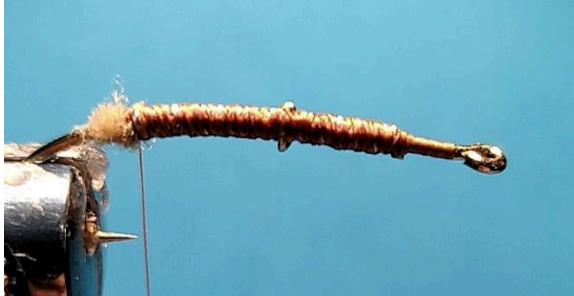


Figure 3: Small Tan Rabbit Dubbed Tip

Tie in three pheasant barbules as in figure 4.

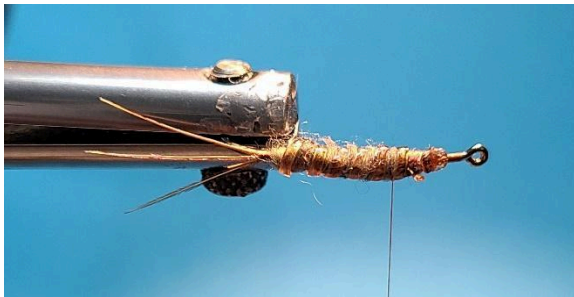


Figure 4: Three Pheasant Barbules

Attach brown vinyl to one side of the hook and flatten with a pair of pliers. This serves to widen the body.

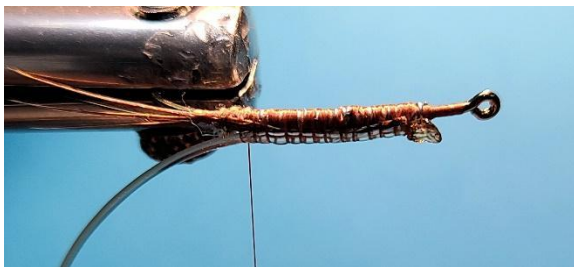


Figure 5: Attach Brown Vinyl To Hook Shank

Make a thin rabbit dubbing loop and wrap forward with touching turns to about 3/8" behind the hook eye.

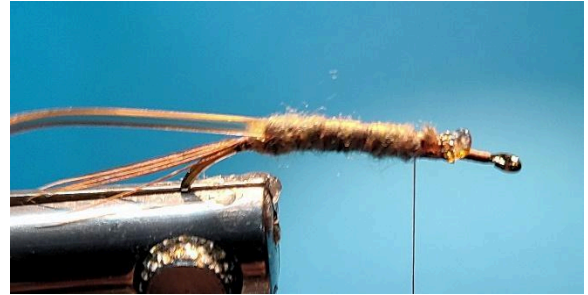


Figure 6: Thin Rabbit Dubbing Loop Applied To Form The Abdomen.

Next palmer the vinyl forward, flat side up, to segment the fly's abdomen. Next, tie on the scud backing.



Figure 7: Scud Backing Secured

As seen in figure 8, tie in the turkey barbules on top of the scud backing.



Figure 8: Turkey Barbules Tied To The Hook

Prepare a partridge feather by stripping off the fluff from the stem. Keep only the barbules needed to form the legs. Tie the feather in by the tip with the dull side up and then trim off the tip.

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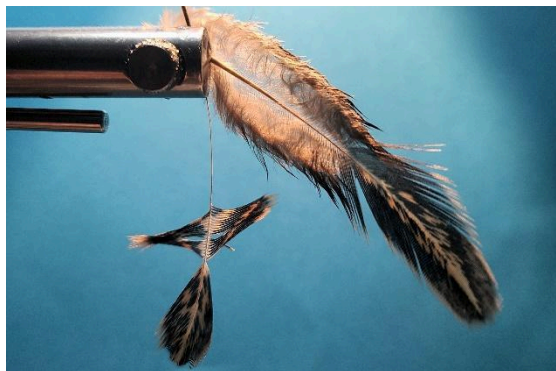


Figure 9 Original Speckled Hen Saddle Compared With Hen Saddle Prepared For Fly Legs

Form a little thicker dubbing noodle to form a healthy thorax for the fly.



Figure 10: Speckled Hen Feather Secured With Dubbing Noodle Below.

Use the dubbing noodle to form the thorax.

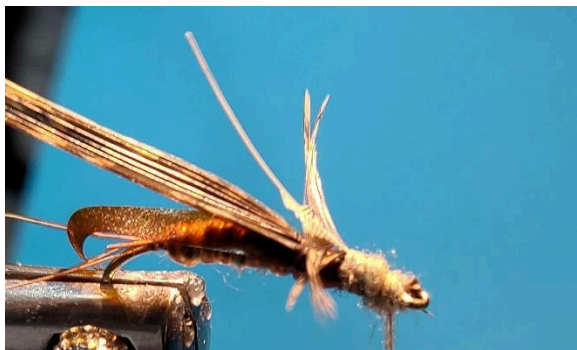


Figure 11: Dubbing Noodle Applied To Form Thorax

Fold and tie in pheasant feather to form legs.



Figure 12: Attach Pheasant Feather To Form Legs.

Fold down turkey barbules, tie off in back of the eye and then trim off the excess. Then fold down the scud back, but at this point **do not** trim off the excess.



Figure 13: Turkey Barbules And Scud Back Tied down.

Create a small dubbing noodle and wrap twice behind eye to form a head. Then fold the scud back over the dubbing noodle, tie off in front of the thorax to complete the head and carefully trim off the excess. Finish with a couple of coats of UV adhesive.

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Figure 14: Finished March Brown Pattern.