



January Fly of the Month Zebra Midge

By Dell Swearingen

The Zebra Midge:

Hook: 2X-short emerger hook (here a Dai-Riki #125), sizes 16-22, or equivalent.

Bead: Black, silver, or clear Tungsten, Brass or Glass bead size to fit hook.

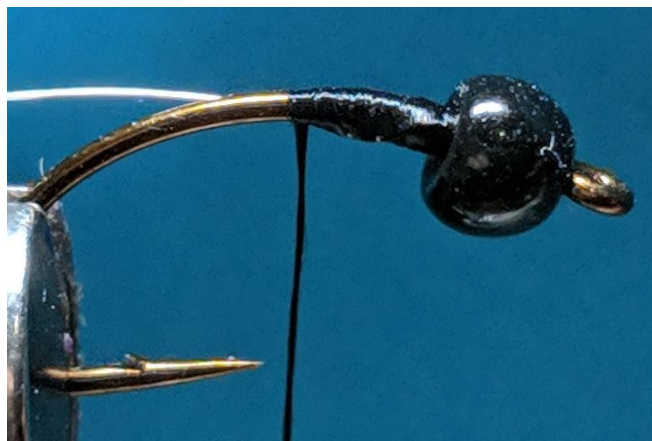
Thread: Black, 70 or 210 denier 6/0.

Rib: Silver Ultra Wire small.

Body: Black tying thread.

Note: Try different color beads, threads, and wires, black, red and olive colors are common. A larger hook was used in the picture for demonstration purposes.

Use a barbless hook or pinch the barb down. This makes it easier to get the hook out of fish, fingers and clothing. Slide bead onto hook and insert hook in vise. Make a few thread wraps around the hook in back of the bead, insert wire under the bead and tie it to the hook with thread wraps. Wrap thread around the hook and stop 1/2 way down the curve of the hook.



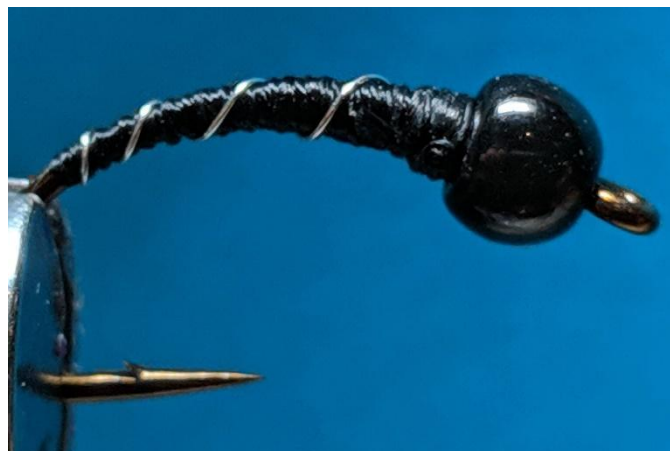
Wrap the thread around the wire securing the wire to the hook shank. Wrap the thread back to the bead.



A tapered body is achieved by wrapping the thread about 1/3 of the shank of the hook and then returning back to the bead. Then wrap the thread about 2/3 the way down the shank and wrap back to the bead. Finally, wrap down to about 1/2 half the bend of the hook and then wrap back to the bead. Actually, the wraps should continue about 1/8" further than pictured.

Use equal spacings to wrap the wire five to eight times around the fly to represent a segmented body. Secure the wire behind the bead and clip or helicopter the wire until the excess is released. Push the loose end of the wire down against the fly body and add three more wraps behind the bead. Some fly tiers cover the thread and wire with UV glue and cure, but others just use it without glue or contact cement.

Whip finish, add head cement behind the bead, cut the thread and the fly is ready to fish.



Attach to the leader using a loop knot to add extra wiggle to the fly. In Stillwater, an indicator is often used to fish the Zebra Midge about a foot off the bottom. Good luck.