

FLY OF THE MONTH

TF's Spotted Sedge

By Jim Ferguson



- Hook: TMC 2457, #14 & #16, or equivalent
- Thread: Tan UTC 70 or Tan 8/0 Unit-Thread
- Shuck: Light dun Z-Lon
- Rib: Medium gold UTC Ultra wire
- Body: A mix of $\frac{3}{4}$ Caddis Ginger Wapsi Life Cycle and $\frac{1}{4}$ olive Hareline hare's ear dubbings
- Wing: Tan, medium coastal deer body hair

This pattern appeared in the American Angler (May/June 2016) as an imitation for the spotted sedge found in the East and Midwest fisheries. The colors I blended were a slightly darker ginger and a light olive Hareline caddis dubbing. Variations could even use Hairlines McKenzie River green for an early season caddis imitation. This is an emerging pattern meant to be floated by the deer hair wing and head but with the body and shuck down into the film. The picture above shows the attitude of how you hope

to get the fly to ride in the water. The hook used is pretty stout and the medium wire adds weight to pull the body down into the water film. The wing on this version is a little longer than the one demo tied in the magazine.

Step-By-Step Tying Directions

1. Mount the de-barbed hook in the vise (Fig 1), attach the thread with a jam knot about a hook eye length behind the eye of the hook (Fig 2). Wrap the thread down the shank about 3 or 4 turns and let the bobbin hang.

Fig 1



Fig 2



2. Select the shuck material you will use. Tease out some of the fibers; you don't want this to be overly thick. Attach the shuck material to the top of the hook shank and bind it down as you wrap the tying thread to the rear. A line from the point of the hook and the final tie down position of the hook should make about a 45 degree angle. This is not a scud. Do not carry the shuck too far back into the bend. Bring the thread forward to the mid-point of the hook shank (Fig 3).

Fig 3



3. Trim the waste at the front of the tie in position for the shuck material. You can trim the shuck to slightly longer than the hook. Remember, the fly comes out of the shuck so the shuck would be a little longer than the emerging fly (Fig 4). Rather than blunt cutting the shuck, you might try to stagger cut it. You may want to wait until the final step before cutting.



Fig 4

4. Wrap your tying thread forward a few turns and attach the wire rib material on top of the hook shank as in Fig 5. This is a pretty robust rib for this size of hook. The purpose is to get the body to break into the surface film and pull the body under the surface so the wing can lay level on the water surface. I tie the rib on the top of the shank to keep from decreasing the hook gape.



Fig 5

5. Spin a small amount of dubbing onto the tying thread and wrap a dubbed body forward to about an eye length behind the hook eye (Fig 6). Wrap the rib forward forming 4 or 5 ribs. Tie off the rib on the bottom and while holding the tying thread taught, worry off the metal rib waste by using the helicopter motion rather than cutting the wire with scissors. If a metal end sticks out, use your finger nail or back of a tweezers to push the sharp edge down (Fig 7).



Fig 6

Fig 7



6. Select, stack, and pre-glue the deer body hair to be used for the wing. Since there is no hackle on this fly, the body and rib appears to crowd the head a little. By tying off the rib on the bottom, there is a softer platform to tie on the wing. This pattern will use a high wing set profile. Make a few wraps with the bobbin be sure there is a thread base up to the back of the hook eye. Wrap the thread back to about a hook eye length behind the eye. With your thumb and middle finger holding the wing material, place the hair bunch over the tie in position and make a soft loop over the hair and bring the thread under the shank and up and over to make a second soft loop. Tighten the hair by pulling upwards on the bobbin. This should keep the hair bunch from rotating. While holding the hair in place, make several wraps like you would for an elk hair caddis head. When the hair is held tightly, pull up the waste ends and make several wraps under the waste and directly behind the hook eye. Whip finish a head under the wing waste directly behind the hook eye (Fig 8). Apply head cement to the thread wraps.



Fig 8



Fig 9

Hold the wing waste material ends together and trim the waste ends so you form a head with the butt ends (Fig 9). A finger nail pushed down at the wing tie in position could help in flaring the wings a little. Using your finger nail or needle bodkin, push the butt stubs up and back towards the wing to make the head appear a little more rounded in shape (Fig 10). Fig 11 shows how you hope it rides in the water.

Fig 10



Fig 11

