

FLY OF THE MONTH

Bow Tie Buzzer

By Denny Westover

The Bow Tie Buzzer is one of my favorite and most effective stillwater chironomid patterns, originally conceived by Rick Takahashi (*MODERN MIDGES*, 2009, Stackpole Books). His pattern imitates a stillwater midge pupa. It's simple to tie and is effective because it is thin and sinks quickly.

I tie it in black, olive, red and brown. Black is by far the most effective color and I typically start with a size 14 or 16 and then change size and color based on stomach samples from the first few fish. The finished fly should be coated with two coats of Loon Knot Sense or Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails. The gills are an important component of the fly and the strand of Oral B Ultra Floss should be tied in perpendicular to the hook eye and then trimmed to size.



I find the fly most effective when fished with a floating line and strike indicator. Using a dead slow inch-at-a-time retrieve begin one foot off the bottom in the am and move the fly higher in the water column as the hatch progresses towards the surface. Try pairing the Bow Tie Buzzer with a bloodworm in the spring or a damsel or callibaetis nymph in the summer/fall.

Hook –Tiemco3761 or 2488

Thread-Black 70 or 140 denier UTC

Abdomen-Tying thread

Rib-Silver Flashabou Holographic tinsel

Wing buds-Brown biot

Wing case-Mirage tinsel

Gills-Oral B Ultra Floss