

Fly of the Month APRIL 2018

Smoke and Mirrors Jig-fly variant

Originally tied by Daniel Soltau of Dirty Water Fly Company

Variation tied by Bob Prince



Check out Daniel's website at <https://dirtywaterflyco.com/>

A little note on this fly. I must give credit where credit is due. Daniel Soltau's pattern is a sweet, sweet streamer design and is quickly replacing nearly every other streamer pattern in my boxes and for good reason. This fly flat out gets the job done! I've made a few modifications to the bug that make it a bit quicker and simpler to tie. I've only done this to make the tying process easier and quicker. As a guide, father, and full-time teacher my tying time is precious and I need to crank out as many bugs as possible during the winter months. By skipping a few steps I can crank out a bunch of these streamers rather quickly. I think the omission of rubberlegs doesn't diminish this fly's productivity but that's just my opinion. If you want to see the original pattern tied by Soltau himself go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-eQDaLX7EU&feature=youtu.be> or check out his website at <https://dirtywaterflyco.com/>. I've tied a few the way he does and they work great but again, I like it the way I tie it. Both versions will put fish in the net, I'm confident in that.

Why reinvent the wheel? below is a description of the bug from the Slide Inn Website.

"Soltau's Smoke N Mirrors. This pattern comes to us from our good friend Daniel Soltau of Bozeman, Montana. The Smoke N' Mirrors is a sparsely tied articulated streamer that holds true to shape underwater, and has gained quite a following on rivers such as the Yellowstone, Big Hole, Madison, Missouri, and Henry's Fork. The rear section of this pattern is tied on a 25 mm. shank, with a little bit of marabou for the tail and 2 strands of lateral scale. The body on both the front and back sections is wrapped with UV polar chenille, and Daniel uses an Owner 60 degree jig hook to invert the fly so that hanging up on the bottom is rarely an issue. The Smoke N Mirrors is an extremely versatile streamer that works well on the swing in addition to a fast jerk strip or vertical jig, (fly is approximately 3 inches long)."

Okay. Now to the nitty gritty. Why do I love this fly? Simply put, this thing swims! The lightweight hookless rear shank

undulates like nothing else underwater. Without a trailer hook this fly never, repeat never, fouls during casting. This fly casts easily, sinks quickly, and has just the right amount of flash. The single hook sticks fish well but doesn't maim trout in the way that articulated flies sometimes do. The jig style construction ensure that you hang up a lot less on the bottom and on woody debris. You can walk this fly over logs and rocks in ways you just can't do with standard streamer designs. I like the size too. 2.5-3 inches long is a great size for streamers in my opinion. It's big enough you can grab the attention of bigger fish but it's not so big that you can't reliably get medium sized (14-19) inch trout to chase and eat this thing.

Most of the materials for this fly are standard fare. The only exotic things are the hooks and the shanks. I get my Owner jig hooks online, most bass fishing places will carry them. I get the value pack of 63. For shanks I use the short Fish Skull articulation shanks found at most local fly shops these days.

Tie a few up and see what you think. I have confidence you are going to like what you see once you give this fly a swim!

I've included the directions for the silver/gold and olive version that I fish most often and catch the most fish on. You can tie this fly in a wide variety of colors just by changing the chenille and marabou color. You can check out all the different shades at <https://dirtywaterflyco.com/> or create your own!

Materials (Gold and Olive version)

Rear Shank

Shank: Fish Skull 20mm articulation shank

Thread: 3/0 to match fly color

Tail: Olive Brown Marabou and Medium Lateral Scale

Body: UV Gold Polar Chenille

Dubbing: Red Tri-Lobal Dubbing or Ice Dubbing

Connection Point

Wire: 19-strand .038mm 17lb. test Beadalon Wire

Articulation Bead: 1 Red Glass Bead

Front Hook

Hook: Owner 60 degree jig hook, cutting point. Size 4

Dumbell Eyes: Medium Hareline Double Pupil Lead Eyes - Red

Front Hook Tail: Fish Skull Olive Faux Bucktail and Olive Brown Marabou

Body: UV Gold Polar Chenille again

Collar: Olive Brown Marabou

Dubbing: Red Tri-Lobal Dubbing or Ice Dubbing

Directions

- Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-eQDaLX7EU&feature=youtu.be> for much better directions than I can give you!

I do everything he does except I omit the rubberlegs and I don't worry too much about the front collar marabou length. I like it a bit longer than he does but that's just me talking.—**Bob Prince**