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Dancing Damsel Nymph

by

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I came up with this pattern after my outing at Georgetown Lake. I saw this nymph swimming and thought a wiggle or articulating version would work better than a long shank model. I also like it to be 'suggestive' to represent the damsel, a bait fish, a leech, perhaps a stonefly, a large caddis or a waterdog. Try different colors. This pattern can be used at any shallow lake with weed beds including Browns Lake. Have Fun!



I like it unweighted because I'm trying to imitate the nymph rising to the surface. Tie it with a loop knot and retrieve it slowly wiggling the rod tip horizontally imitating the nymphs swimming action.

Hook: Abdomen :Dai Riki #270 or 3xl any straight eye, size 18 – 14.

(Wiggle shanks available at JStockard)

Thorax: Scud type 2457 2xS, 2xW, size 14 – 16. Barbs pinched down.

Thread: 8/0 to match materials

Tail: Marabou, Olive or tan

Abdomen: Marabou, Olive or tan

Thorax: Peacock herl

Legs: Sexilegs [smaller is better] olive or tan

Ribbing: Xfine Chartreuse, or Olive wire

Bead: Mono eyes optional

Lead wt: .010 lead free wire wrap—optional

Proportions are 2/3 abdomen and 1/3 thorax excluding the space for connection

Abdomen: Lay thread base starting at one eye of hook to **hook bend (above barb)**. Bring thread back to start. Tie in wire and cover wire back to hook bend. Wire should end on the far side of the shank.

Select about ½ pencil width of fluffy marabou. Measure marabou tail shank length (eye to bend of hook). At the measured tail, tie in marabou at bend using the pinch wrap about 3-4 turns. I find wetting the marabou helps a little helps with control. Move thread to start of thread tie in point. Wrap the marabou to one eye length of eye. Secure with a couple of thread wraps then snip marabou. Counter (about 3-4) wrap the wire to the thread and secure with thread. Cut or break off wire and create 'a small head' and whip finish and cement head. Remove abdomen and with wire cutters, cut hook at start of bend, just before thread.

Thorax: I use the scud type hook for the wider gape and some weight. Starting at the eye, lay a thread base to hook bend then back to start. Thread 10# test mono into abdomen eye and loop for tie in. Tie in mono at least ¾ of thread base. Loop should be at the bend. It doesn't matter if the loop is tied on top but I tie it on the side. Thread should end at bend. Abdomen should be able to move freely. Cement thread to bind mono to shank.

Optional: Add 3-5 wraps of .010 lead free wire if desired. Cement over lead to bind mono to shank. Move thread to midpoint. Tie in a pair of legs on each side of the shank for a total of 4 legs. Move thread back to the hook **point**. Stroke 2-4 peacock herls, base to tip, to find weak point which will break off. Line up tips and tie in tips and secure to the hook bend. Create a dubbing loop. Bring the thread to 2 eye lengths from the eye. Insert the peacock herls into loop.

Spin the dubbing loop to create the rope. Wrap the rope up the shank (pulling the rear legs out of the way) to rear of the legs, then wrapping the rope over the tie in point of the legs, then in front of the forward legs up to the hanging thread

Optional: At this point you can tie in mono eyes (40# burnt at the ends). X Wrap the rope to cover the mono.

Tie in the rope and whip finish.

Trim legs to shank length.