

Flys of the Month

Baetis and Zebra Klinkhammers

by Greg Chester

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I just returned from another great trip to the Yellowstone area (see my trip report). Along with perfect weather conditions, I was introduced to another great pattern from Bucky at Blue Ribbon Flies. During the week Baetis adult, emerger and nymph patterns were the ticket and these Klinkhammer patterns were clearly the winners, even out fishing the venerable Sparkle Dun on several waters. As they say Fall is Small which was underscored by the consistent refusals to anything larger than a #22. A #24 was even better if you could see it. Try fishing it as a dropper behind something visible helped detect hits. With winter approaching I included the Zebra Midge version for those fishable, snowy days we're treated to in the colder months.

These patterns follow a successful theme of placing the abdomen below the surface and more visible to the trout. Many new hook designs accomplish this and none better than the Klinkhammer style. The Tiemco 206BL is another great emerger/adult hook. On both of these hooks I really like the ring eye feature versus down eye styles. This style features a wider gap for better hooking success, and both are made of light wire – ideal for surface patterns.

Besides fishing well these patterns are easy to tie, if you're comfortable tying patterns size 20 and smaller. If not Blue Ribbon would be happy to sell you a dozen! The parachute hackle and post afford good floatability and visibility, more worthy features of effective patterns.

Menu – (Materials in parentheses are for the zebra version)

Thread Olive dun 8/0 Unithread (Black 8/0 Uni)

Hook Daiichi 1167 Klinkhammer size 16 – 22

Rib Copper Midge Wire (Silver Midge wire)

Dubbing Grey Olive Superfine (black Superfine)

Post Trigger Point fibers, orange, dun or black. All 3 colors have benefits depending on light conditions – experiment!

Hackle Medium Dun (Grizzly)

Tying steps:

1. Attach thread at beginning of hook bend and tie in wire.
2. Wrap thread back keeping wire on top of hook shank.
3. Bring thread back to top of hook and wrap wire to the thorax area.
4. Tie off and snip or break wire.
5. Bring thread to midway point on top of hook and tie in post and hackle.
6. Dub a very sparse thorax of Superfine on both sides of post.
7. Wrap hackle and tie off.
8. Whip finish and cement head.

Baetis version



Zebra midge version

