



California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU), Sacramento, CA

“IMPROVED X-CADDIS”

January 2012 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By *John Daniels*

MATERIALS

HOOK: TMC100 #12-20

THREAD: Danville 6/0 brown.

SHUCK: Amber Zlon (aka Zelon)

RIB: Opal Flashabou

ABDOMEN: Hare's Ear Antron

WING: Deer Hair

HEAD: Brown Hare's Ear Antron

Originator: Craig Matthews

There is a time for subtle flies, and there is a time for not so subtle flies. In the early spring when the water is high and fast on Northern California freestone rivers, the Improved X-Caddis can be just the ticket to raise trout. Even on otherwise technical waters such as the McCloud, this pattern in the early season can be surprisingly effective when you need something a bit flashy to get the fish's attention. For more sedate waters, omit the rib for a better match of the hatch. Basically an Elk Hair Caddis without the hackle, the X-Caddis can be a deadly pattern, and is a dirt simple tie.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Photo 1

(PHOTO 1) After debarbing the hook, putting the bead head on, and placing the hook in the vice, lay down a thread base along the hook shank.



Photo 3

(PHOTO 3) Dub the head the same as the abdomen, whip finish and remove the thread.



Photo 2

(PHOTO 2) Dub the body, and rib the fly. Tie in a wing of deer hair as you would an EHC a bit more than the length of the shank. I like running the thread a few times over the hair, and then through the butts three times before trimming the butts flush



Photo 4

(PHOTO 4) Trim the shuck about the length of the hook. Straight or crinkled Zelon will work, but always make sure you tie the shuck sparse.



Photo 5

(PHOTO 5) Here is the completed “Improved X-Caddis”.