



“Kindergarten Fly”

November 2010 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By *Robert Rountree*

I've always considered Fly of the Month as a great teaching tool for beginning fly tiers, and one of my favorite aspects of our monthly newsletter. Dave Sylstra used to write this column when I joined the club several years ago, and he always stressed simple, easy-to-tie, sparse patterns. This inspired my "Kindergarten Fly" with one of his monthly columns. It doesn't get much easier than this nymph trout pattern which just looks "buggy", and fish probably take it for a damsel imitation. I like it because it catches a lot of fish, and irritates John Daniels because it's a "kindergarten" tie skill level-wise. Hence it's called the "Kindergarten Fly". I've found basic olive, black and brown to be the most productive colors, but let your imagination go wild with all the various colors of marabou available. This is my swan song for FOM for awhile, and Paul Courter is going to replace me in the tying rotation to allow some fresh air, and creativity into the column. I've appreciated the audience allowing me to present my flies along with the more skilled tiers (John Daniels, Dell Clark and Jim Berdan) in the current rotation.

MATERIALS

HOOK: 2X Hevy, 2-3X wide Scud Hook
(e.g., TMC 2488 or similar) Size 10

TAIL/ BODY: Olive black or brown Marbou

MISC: Peacock herl, fine small red

THREAD: Olive, Black or Brown 6/0 to
match marabou body

Tying Instructions

(PHOTO 1) Flatten the barb on your hook, and mount it in your vise. Lay a thread base back just beyond the barb. Try to find a decent bunch of several long marabou fibers, and you'll be able to tie the fly with a single strand. I prefer a long tail, and measure it about 1-2X the length of the hook. If feather fibers not long enough to tie the entire fly then first tie in a tail, secure with a few wraps, and trim off. Now tie in another bunch of marabou where the tail began to tie your body. Twist the bunch of marabou into a rope as seen in the picture at right.



(PHOTO 2) Wrap your marabou rope up the body in tight wraps. The body should appear somewhat segmented in appearance as you wrap forward toward the eye. I will also stroke the feathers back toward the tail in between wraps as I get about the middle of the body. Don't forget to give your feather rope a few more twists to keep it tight as you move forward. Heck, you're almost finished!



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(PHOTO 3) You just need to whip finish the head of the fly, and add some head cement. You're done, and ready to catch fish!



Photo 3



Photo 4

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Step #5 Fancy alternatives. A couple of fancy alternatives include finishing the head off with peacock herl or small fine red chenille. See pictures below.

