

UV Sparkle Soft Hackle

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



The UV Sparkle Soft Hackle is a pattern I dreamed up after fishing the Crooked River some years ago. I had tied up a few orange scud patterns for a trip to the Bighorn River in Montana, and I happened to have a few leftovers in my box one day at the Crooked River. I tied one of these scuds on the leader and immediately started catching fish. It wasn't until a few years later that I learned enough about the Crooked River's entomology, thanks to John Anderson of the Central Oregon Flyfishers, when he clued me into the fact that aquatic sow bugs that were a key source of food for Crooked River Redband rainbows. The aquatic sow bug is orange in color, hence the success of my orange scud pattern. When I learned this, I sat down to the vice and began to experiment. I like soft hackles and tied a few versions that mirrored the orange scud color. After several versions, I finally settled on the UV Sparkle Soft Hackle. The fly is tied in the same color orange as the Aquatic Sow Bugs. I vary the size from 14-18.

The Aquatic Sow Bug is but one use for this versatile pattern. I also use it to imitate emerging mayflies. Particularly Callibaetis on East Lake, where I will tie this pattern in size 12-16 and use it while wind-drifting the lake. But I also use this fly for a Pale Morning Dun emerger on the Upper Deschutes and Metolious rivers. For PMD's I'll

downsize and tie it on size 16 – 18 hooks. I will also generally use a darker brown thread for a PMD. The characteristics that make this fly successful, I believe, is the color, the pulsating hackle in the water, and lastly, the light signature offered by adding the UV Tan Ice Dubbing.

If you watch the video embedded as a link at the bottom of this page, you'll see that the steps leading up to the finished fly can look a little sloppy by adding the UV material to the fly. The camera has a way of catching a lot more detail than the naked eye. But I assure you, the finished fly is elegant and indeed catches fish. Give this pattern a try next time you sit down at your vice to tie a few flies.

UV Sparkle Soft Hackle Materials List:

Hook: Daiichi 1260, Size 12-18
Thread: 70 Denier Orange Thread
Rib: Ultra Wire – Small Brown
UV Resin: Clear Cure Goo - Hydro
Thorax: Peacock
Flash: Hareline Ice Dub – UV Tan
Hackle: Whiting Brahma Hen - Brown

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/MPvANGN0V0Y>.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it in rivers or lakes to imitate several emerging mayflies, or the Aquatic Sow Bug in the Crooked River. If you have questions or would like additional information about the UV Sparkle Soft Hackle pattern, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.