

# October Caddis Skater

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*Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner*

*By: Phil Fischer*



## *October Caddis Skater*

Have you noticed those big lumbering mothy-like bugs flying over the Deschutes or Fall River lately? Chances are you were seeing the adult October Caddis. This caddis emerges in September and October throughout many rivers in Oregon and Northern California. I've heard this fly called "the Great Pumpkin of Western Rivers". It is a big bug, and for a few short weeks in the fall can be important to imitate, as these insects make a tasty treat for rising trout. A steelhead will occasionally take this pattern on the surface as well, skated at the tail out of your favorite steelhead run! It is an honest size 8-10 hook, which makes it a pattern that is easy to see on the water. And one doesn't have to cast delicately with this fly. During egg laying flights the October Caddis daps the water's surface to deposit its eggs. It is often this behavior that we are trying to imitate as fly fishermen. A little "splat cast" on the water is a good thing with this pattern. You generally won't see lots of these bugs about, but the trout know they are there and will take them eagerly if afforded the opportunity. Look for the egg laying flight in the afternoon and evening. Even if you don't see the naturals about, this fly can be a good searching pattern and will often raise a wary trout looking for a large meal.



### ***October Caddis Adult***

The CDC October Caddis pattern is an adaptation from a fly shared with me some years ago by Thomas Duncan. The underwing is CDC, which is a natural floatant to enable this fly to settle down in the film, and its shiny body fibers, soft hackle, and CDC wing will give a convincing impression of a caddis. I have made a couple of changes to Thomas' original pattern by using a darker CDC and adding just a bit of Flash to the abdomen of the fly to shimmer on the water's surface.

Next time you are out fishing, look for that big mothy-looking October Caddis in the evening as the natural returns to the stream to lay its eggs, and be ready to cast this fly searching for rising trout.

### **Materials List:**

Hook: Firehole 718, Size 10

Thread: Flat Waxed 70 Denier, Orange

Abdomen: Pale Orange Dubbing

Rib: Pearlescent Flat Tinsel

Underwing: Trout Hunter CDC, Dark Pardo

Collar: Whiting Hen Saddle, Natural Dyed Brown

Overwing and Head: Deer Hair Dyed Orange

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/L9jZhV4JMO0>

Experiment with the October Caddis Skater. If you have questions or would like additional information about this 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](mailto:Philfischer@sbcglobal.net).