

Food Court Midge

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



A few weeks ago, the seasons began to signal that inevitable change as we march toward winter. Slowly early fall and warmer weather turned to a nice crisp nip in the air. This change brings about a shift in hatches on our local rivers. Gone are terrestrials, and mayflies are waning. But a steady hatch to be counted upon, especially on warmer mid-winter days are midges. From now till springtime, midges will provide the most reliable dry fly opportunity on our local streams. It was this very situation that sent me back to the vice to create a new pattern that would imitate midge hatches.

I had been fishing one of our local spring creeks and observed a bunch of fish feeding on a profuse, but exceedingly small midge. The fish were lined up, almost as if they were at the food court of a local mall. I did not have a good imitation in my box, so I sat down and got creative. Onstream I had noticed numerous midge shucks floating by, apparently being left behind by the emerging midges. I decided to try and imitate this with a trailing shuck on the imitation. I settled on some UV Krystal Flash. For the abdomen, I chose a stripped peacock barb off a tailfeather. For the thorax, I used a very sparse peacock barb wound to add profile to the thorax. I used deer hair for the lay-down wing. Lastly, I used A Whiting Midge Grizzly saddle hackle to help with flotation. Each of these materials are rather delicate and break easily in trout teeth, so I used a bit of super glue before winding each material around the hook. This pattern is tied on a size 18 short shank barbless hook. But don't hesitate to tie down to size 20's and even 22's.

After tying a half dozen of this new midge creation, I was anxious to give it a try. The first time out, I eased in above a pod of feeding rainbows and delicately presented this pattern. It did not take long for the fish to pass judgement. The second cast I hooked into a nice 16" rainbow, and over the next hour and a half, I hooked and released about a dozen fish on this pattern. I remembered the analogy of observing the trout lined up to the food court, and so, the Food Court Midge was borne. Give this pattern a try this winter on the Fall, Crooked, Metolius or other favorite waters.

Food Court Midge Materials List:

Hook:	Firehole 609 Barbless, Size 18 - 20
Thread:	Veevus 14/0, Black
Trailing Shuck:	UV Krystal Flash
Abdomen:	Polish Quill, Natural
Thorax:	Peacock
Wing:	Natural Deer Hair
Hackle:	Whiting Dry Fly Midge Saddle, Grizzly

Tying instructions and steps are 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/53gSiehfGW8>.

Give the Food Court Midge a try during the midge hatch on one of our local rivers. If you have questions or would like additional information about this pattern, please 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.