



Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



For this month's pattern, I tied a Tan Parahopper. Central Oregon is blessed with beautiful pine tree forests as far as the eye can see. This ecosystem supports a myriad of terrestrial insects, including ants, beetles and hoppers. This knowledge is important to the fly fisher, as during summer, terrestrials become active and are an important food source for hungry trout. This food source is happenstance. Terrestrials by nature don't live in water. They live in grassy meadows, fallen timber and other detritus on the forest floor, often near our lakes and rivers. Many hoppers fly, but not always very accurately. A gust of wind at the wrong time will send a big hopper plopping into the water. That "plop" provokes an opportunistic trout to take hoppers on the surface with reckless abandon.

When I conducted my winter fly inventory, I found my supply of Tan Parahoppers seriously lacking in my fly boxes. I use it a lot throughout the mid to later summer when hoppers are active. I've caught nice fish on this pattern in the Fall and Upper Deschutes Rivers, and on Hosmer and East Lake. Hoppers come in many different sizes, shapes and colors. Obviously, I had depleted this fly from my boxes, so it is time to tie more. I tied

this fly on a size 8, curved shank dry fly hook. You can vary this from size 6, to as small as size 12's, as there is a lot of variability in the size of hoppers in our area.

Fish this pattern by cruising the edges of lakes and casting close to the shore. Alternatively, fish the grassy banks along our local rivers. Delicate dry fly casting is not necessary with this fly; in fact, the opposite is preferred. Plop this fly down heavily on the surface of the water. Trout will react to the "plop" and take the fly with a reaction strike. There is something heart-stopping about seeing a big head of a nice East Lake or Upper Deschutes rainbow trout coming up aggressively to take this fly. Fishing these big easy-to-see flies is something I look forward to every summer.

Tan Parahopper Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718, or Daiichi 2312, Size 8 - 12

Thread: 70 or 140 Denier Black Thread

Tail: Natural Deer Hair

Post: Poly Yarn, White

Abdomen and Thorax: Tan Zelon Dubbing

Rib: 140 Denier Brown Thread

Wing: Natural Turkey Tail

Legs: Round Rubber Legs, Brown

Hackle: Whiting Hebert Miner Dry Fly Saddle, Speckled Badger

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/Tyt6PTH982c>.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it in rivers or lakes to imitate the grasshoppers which are common in Central Oregon. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Tan Parahopper, 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 <mailto:philfischer@sbcglobal.net>.