

## Amy's Ant

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*Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner*

*By: Phil Fischer*



*Amy's Ant Fly Pattern*

For this month's fly pattern I turned to well-known fly tyer and fly fisherman, Jack Dennis, who designed the Amy's Ant. Jack originally tied this pattern for the Jackson One-fly contest at the request of former Vice President Dick Cheney. It went on to win the individual fly honor and was the lead fly for the Frontier Fly Fishers, winning the title in 1999. This pattern has been well known ever since and has been tied to imitate a myriad of insects from large beetles to small ants to grasshoppers and even various stoneflies, making it a very versatile fly tied in a variety of colors.

Given the importance of terrestrial in Central Oregon, I rely on the Amy's Ant pattern for both lakes and rivers. In the mid-summer I can count on a larger black and peacock to work imitating large beetles on Hosmer Lake. Or I can use it tied in tan to imitate hoppers on the Fall River. On East Lake and Paulina, I use this pattern tied in smaller sizes to imitate the large black flying carpenter ants that hatch in June. I also tie this fly in a light tan/olive to imitate the summer stones on the Upper Deschutes. The fly demonstrated in the video (link below), is tied in an Ultraviolet purple color, which I don't know what it imitates, but the trout like it!

While primarily designed to fish in moving water, I often use the Amy's Ant pattern on our local lakes during summer and run a dropper fly, such as a chironomid pattern or Callibaetis nymph. The fly tied in larger sizes can easily float a heavy weighted dropper.

Give this pattern a try while terrestrial insects are still active in our area.

**Pattern Materials List:**

**Hook:** Firehole 718, Size 4-16

**Thread:** 140 Denier Ultra, Black

**Foam:** 2mm Black Craft Foam

**Legs:** Hareline Crazy Legs, Black/Red Flake

**Dubbing:** UV Dubbing blend, UV Black (50%), UV Purple (50%)

**Hackle:** Whiting Dry Fly Cape, Dyed Black

**Underwing:** UV Shimmer, Purple

**Overwing:** Natural Deer Hair

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/I6cCwnSgGn8>

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it to match some of our terrestrials here in Central Oregon waters. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Amy's Ant 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).