

Madam X

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



Madam X Fly Pattern

I first fished the Madam X fly pattern many years ago on Montana's Gallatin River just outside Yellowstone Park. It was a mid-summer day and hoppers were abundant at that time of year. The Madam X tied with a pale-yellow abdomen proved to be just the ticket for these hungry trout. Working the riffles and runs of this river, I caught quite a few fish, and the Madam X earned a permanent spot in my fly box. I have since used this pattern in many rivers throughout the Western US, and most notably, here in Central Oregon. It is an excellent imitation for two major hatches: Golden Stones and Hoppers. Golden Stones hatch in tandem with, or slightly later than Salmonflies. And while most folks are pounding the water with salmonflies, I often find the smaller, less used Golden Stone often results in more strikes.

The Madam X is a very versatile pattern which can be tied in various colors to imitate the bug of the day. The version I tied for this article is tied with a bullet head, which floats very low on the water. But other versions utilize a parachute post and parachute hackle. But the defining characteristic is the rubber legs tied in the shape of an X, hence the name. I often will tie this fly with a bright red body or using an orange abdomen to imitate Salmonflies. I will even tie it with a peacock abdomen to imitate the myriad of

large beetles in our area.

To fish this pattern, cast tightly to the bank and immediately, when the fly hits the water, perform a subtle air mend to flip and skip the fly before it settles into its drift. Golden stones display lots of movement on the water during egg laying flights. So, don't hesitate to flip and skip and skate the fly. That movement often is the difference between a take and a refusal. Similarly, when imitating grasshoppers, cast tight to the bank and don't hesitate to add some subtle movement to the fly. While primarily designed to fish in fast moving water, I often use this pattern on our local lakes during mid-summer. Trout can be very opportunistic taking hoppers on the surface, and I have had excellent success with this pattern on both Hosmer and East Lake.

Give this pattern a try during the upcoming Golden Stone hatch on the Lower Deschutes or Metolius or to imitate hoppers later this summer.

Madam X Fly Pattern Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718, Size 10

Thread: 210 Denier Danville, Yellow

Tail and Wing: Natural Deer Hair

Abdomen: Micro Straggle, UV Gold/Sunburst

Legs: Medium Round Rubber Legs, 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/fzfE4yHO2qM>

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it in during the Golden Stone hatch on the Deschutes, Metolius and other Central Oregon waters. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Madam X 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.