

Sparkle Grub

Submitted by Paul Blanch

This is a nice easy fly to tie. I used this pattern at Project Healing Waters (PHW) and found everyone liked it (chartreuse is always a crowd pleaser). I was out of Cactus chenille and used a couple of variations of frizzy type chenille that was around. The different types of chenille gave a different look to each fly, but they all looked fishy. The version with the white marabou tail with hot pink was very interesting.

About

“The Sparkle Grub attractor fly has been the equal to the Clouser and Bead-eye Woolly Buzzer. All three of these flies have fluttering tails and weighted heads to sink the flies quickly. Up until the last four years, most of the wet flights I used were dull colors, like black and olives. An analysis of black, white, and chartreuse wet flies showed that chartreuse was slightly better for small, medium and large bass.

The preference was the same even at different light levels (afternoon sun verses evening shade). The success of the chartreuse Sparkle Grub likely reflects the fact that the places I fish are very seldom fished and the fish are not likely not very selective. Catch rate data for similar #2, #4, and #6 wet flies show that large and medium size bass do not have a preference. There is some research that indicates that even though large bass eat crayfish and minnows they also eat smaller things like aquatic insect nymphs as well. The old rule that says use large flies to catch large fish does not hold true. It is likely that you can use smaller #6 and even #8 flies in clear water conditions. There is a clear trend with small bas smaller than ten inches. The larger the hood size the fewer the fish caught. If you want to keep the small fish off then use a larger hook.”

— *Unknown Author*



Thread: 6/0 to 3/0 appropriate color

Hook: #10 to 4/0 3xl shank

Tail: Marabou and three to four strands of Crystal Flash

Eyes: Dumbell

Body: Cactus chenille or sparkle chenille – mono weedguard options!

Instructions:

1. Tie in dumbbell eyes, on top of hook shank. Cement thread.
2. Wrap thread to bend and secure marabou. Make tail about 1½ times the hook shank length.
3. Secure Crystal Flash along both sides of tail.
4. Tie in Cactus chenille. Work thread to behind the hook eye.
5. Wrap chenille to behind hood eye. Pull fibers back with fingers after each wrap. Figure eight chenille around dumbbell eyes to build bulk.
6. Secure chenille behind hood eye. Build a tapered thread head and whip finish. Clip thread and fibers of chenille covering eyes.