

Kaufmann's Stonefly Nymphs



Hook: 300 or 5263, sizes 8-12, weighted and flattened
Thread: Brown
Antennae: Brown turkey biot, V style
Tail: Same as antennae, V style
Rib: Amber Swannundaze
Abdomen: Blend of 60% angora goat (gold, amber, rust, blue, orange) and 40% golden brown rabbit or Haretron
Wingcase: Three separate sections of turkey, coated with Flexament, clipped to shape before tying in place
Legs: Tan, white, black, or brown rubber
Thorax: Same as abdomen
Head: Same as abdomen



Kaufmann Black Stone, Bead-Head Rubber Legs (Randall Kaufmann, 1992)

Hook: 300, sizes 2-6, weighted
Thread: Black
Antennae: Black turkey biot, V style
Bead: Gold, brass or black bead, appropriate size
Tail: Black turkey biot, V style
Rib: Transparent black Swannundaze
Abdomen: Mixture of 60% angora goat (black, purple, claret, red, amber, fiery brown, blue, hot orange) and 40% black Haretron
Wingcase: Three separate sections of turkey, coated with Flexament, clipped to shape before tying in place
Legs: Black round rubber, 2 pair, tied in after first and second wingcases
Thorax: Same as abdomen
Head: Same as abdomen; double head that is immediately behind the bead "head"
Notes: Can be tied with or without bead eye and legs. Weight heavily and fish along bottom rubble.

*** Note: above photographs and recipes are from Randall Kaufmann's Book, "Tying Nymphs," Western Fisherman's Press, 1994

Randall Kaufmann has supported our tying class efforts by providing his great books at a wholesale cost, and by offering great advice to me since I started tying. His stonefly patterns catch fish in just about all waters, and they appeal to many species of fish as well. They appeal to steelhead, trout, smallmouth bass, and many others that inhabit the waters where stoneflies are present.

These particular patterns are best tied in the larger sizes to represent the biggest of the black stoneflies and somewhat smaller brown and golden stones. They take a few minutes to tie, but I have caught steelhead, trout, and smallmouth on them. Try a few and you will always want to have them in your fly box for that special time when the stones are moving and fish are feeding on them.

Tying instructions

My favorite hook for these patterns is the Tiemco 300. It is a heavy wire hook that is 6 extra long. It allows the tyer to produce a fly that is well proportioned and very realistic.

Begin by covering the hook shank with thread and wrapping the body with heavy lead or a non toxic wire substitute. For the largest patterns, size 2, 4, 6, or 8, use .045 or even .055 diameter wire. For the smaller patterns, 10, 12, use .035 diameter wire. Leave enough room at the bend and at the eye for tying in the biot tails and antennae or the antennae and bead if you tie it with a bead head. Once you have wrapped the wire with several turns of thread, flatten it with some smooth jawed needle nosed pliers and add a few drops of head cement or super glue to lock it in place.

Tie in the biots for the tail and antennae, making sure to keep them on the top of the hook, split in a V. Note: if you use a bead head, tie the antennae in behind the bead. Black or olive beads seem to work better for me than bright gold, nickel, or copper.

Tie in the rib, and then dub a small amount of dubbing to give the body a tapered look.

Now dub the rest of the abdomen with a dubbing loop of the Kaufmann stonefly nymph dubbing (or blend your own) covering approximately 2/3 of the shank with dubbing.

Tightly wind the vinyl rib, flat side facing the hook shank, to the forward end of the abdomen, and tie it in securely.

Cut three sections of turkey to make the wing case. Each section should be a different width, each succeeding layer wider than the one under it, and it should be coated with vinyl cement to strengthen it. Cut a V into the back edge of the turkey slips. Tie in the narrowest slip then tie in the rubber legs, one pair to each side. Cover the thread between the rubber legs with a little dubbing.

Tie in the middle turkey slip on top of the first one with only a small amount of the first one showing under it. Again cover the thread with a small amount of dubbing.

Tie in the third and widest turkey slip on top of the second one with only a small amount of the second one showing under it, like shingles on a roof. Dub the head, whip finish, and add a drop of head cement.

You are done. The correct proportions are approximately 3/5ths of the shank for the abdomen and 2/5ths of the shank for the thorax/wing case/head or closer to 1/2 and 1/2 if you use a bead head. Only practice will help you achieve the proper proportions. Even with the bead head, try to make the abdomen slightly longer than the wing case/head area.

I hope you have as much fun learning to tie this pattern as I have, and I hope you catch many, many fine fish with it.

Jim Greco