

Fly Pattern Sheet - UV Diamond Fry

compliments of 2GuysFlyFishing.net

Hook: 3XL Curved , size 6
or any hook with a shank approx 1" long
Thread: 6/0 (70 Denier) Gray or White
Underbody: Chick-a-Bou® feather,
natural or dyed dun
Tail: tip of the Chick-a-Bou® feather
Body: Lagartun Mini Flat Braid
Pearl, or Fluorescent Pearl
Eyes: 2mm (peel-n-stick)



Notes: This fly came from Chad Gage, a member of the Alaska Fly Fishers, who has been fishing fry early spring for years. Chad's been experimenting with materials for the body (see the Sili-Fry) and currently uses mini braid. After completing my first fly I was psyched! It was way too sexy for my box. The photos do not do the color justice. This is my version of his idea.



I like this curved hook for a couple of reasons; the straight (ring) eye and the dip at the back. I tie the tail down on the curve, which I hope will give the fly a little wiggle while it's being retrieved.



Start your thread behind the eye a bit. Tie in the Chick-a-Bou so that 1/4 to 3/8" will be available for the tail. (Notice that I wet the feather first, its a trick that will make your life so much easier.)



Bind the feather down to a point just above the barb. Return the thread to the front of the fly. Tie in the braid about 1/3 back from the eye. (I find it easier to work with the mini flat braid through a bobbin; less waste.)



Wrap the braid forward to the eye; reverse and wrap to about mid-shank. (This is where a rotating vise comes in handy. I've half-hitched my thread and apply the braid directly from the bobbin while rotating the fly.)



Wrap the braid forward to the eye again; reverse and wrap rearward to about 3/4 shank. (Notice the taper we're starting build.)



One last time; wrap to the eye, then back to the tail.



Wrap the braid to the eye; tie off; cut the excess. (See the tying note for an alternative method to build a taper without using so much braid.)



Draw a black (broad tip) marker across the top creating the dark dorsal; build a small head and whip finish.



Place 2mm (peel & stick) eyes just back on the head.



Coat the body with a UV coating and cure.

(This is the step where you could use epoxy; in which case as soon as it was dry, you'd be done.)



Since the UV coating dries with a tack, I coat the finished fly with clear nail polish. Set the fly aside to dry. (Polish is an additional step, but I prefer it to working with epoxy and a drying wheel.)

Tying notes:

The hook shank will determine how long your body will be, so don't fret the make, model, and size. Find a hook that has a shank length of about an inch. Sockeye fry (very common around SCAK) are about an 1-1/4" long when they start to migrate downstream. King and silver salmon fry seem to be in the same size range even though they start migrating a bit earlier. Pink salmon fry are considerably smaller, more like a big head with a skinny little body. (I think the Marabou Clouser Fry is a better imitation for pinks.)

Wetting the Chick-a-Bou feather slightly before you tie it in will save you tons of headaches. You can use a slate gray Sharpie to color your tail feather dun. Usually, by the time I'm ready to dye it with a marker (after the UV coating), it's dry.

As I mentioned in Step 3, I put the spool on Mini Braid on a bobbin to minimize waste. A spool runs about \$6 and I want to get every thing I can out of it. As is, a spool will only make 10 to 11 flies.

Another method, which I'm too lazy to do, is to build up a tapered underbody with poly yarn or something similar. The body taper is built the same way, it's just the mini braid is tied in after and wrapped over the underbody. You get more flies from a spool of mini braid, but each fly takes longer... it's a trade off.

2mm eyes are slightly larger in diameter than your body will be and that can make them difficult to stay down until the coating cures. However, the natural fry have very large eyes in comparison to their bodies so it's better to fight with larger eyes.

If you're a fan of red gill slashes and parr dots, apply them after the nail polish dries (or when the epoxy cures). If you mark up the body before the polish, the polish will smear and smudge your markings.



I can't tell you what species this is, but it is a typical fry photographed in mid to late May. If you're fishing earlier, you want your flies to be a bit slimmer.