**Hood Rat**

Hook: Bass Stinger style, sizes 2 to 10 – Dai-Riki #810/Tiemco 8099

Thread: 140 to 210 Denier; any color

Weed Guard (optional): Mono loop, 20# to 30#

Tail: Ultra Chenille, micro or standard; tan/brown/gray

Sides: Rabbit strips; natural colors

Sides/Bottom: Foam strip\*; Tan/Camel

Top: (Evazote) Foam strip\*; Tan/Camel

Underbody: Ultra Chenille, medium; any color

Keel: Lead tape (self-adhesive) or heavy wire

Lay down a thread base. (Add optional mono weed guard at this point.)

Tie in a long tail of Ultra Chenille.

Tie in rabbit strips at the rear. The hair should be against the hook with the hide towards the tyer.

Tie in the top foam at the rear. (Trimming a short taper at the tie in point will help. The top foam should be at least one size thicker than the sides, and up to 1/2 inch wide.)

Tie in foam strips on both sides at the rear. The strips should be on the lower half of the sides and meet or overlap a bit on the bottom. (Depending on the size of pattern the sides should be 1/16 to 1/8 inch thick and 3/16 to 1/4 inch wide.)

Tie in a piece of medium Ultra Chenille at the rear and bring your thread forward. Leave plenty of space behind the hook eye. Wrap the chenille forward/back/forward as needed to create a thick underbody. Tie off and trim the excess.

Add a strip of the lead tape to the bottom of the underbody to create a keel. (Or, fold heavy lead wire a few times and wrap with thread to the bottom of the chenille.)

(This is a good time to bring the weed guard forward and tie it in if you added one.)

Bring the foam sides forward on both sides making sure they meet in the middle at the bottom of the fly. Tie off with a few wraps but do not trim.

Bring the rabbit strips forward on both sides. Tie off, trim the excess.

Bring the top foam forward and tie down with two or three wraps. \* Do not trap the rabbit hair under the top.

Fold each side foam back and tie down. Trim the foam with short ends.

Trim the top foam in a rounded front, about 1/2 inch long. (Or, you can fold the top foam back and create a loop slightly larger than the sides, tie down and trim short.)

Add Zap-a-Gap to your thread, and while it is wet, place a few more wraps around the foam; whip finish.

The Hood Rat came from research on the internet. Two instructional YouTube videos are available. My favorite is by Theo Anest from Colorado Skies Outfitters and is called Mouse Pattern/Tying Mice Video, the other is by Brogan Ballard and is called Hood Rat Mouse Pattern.