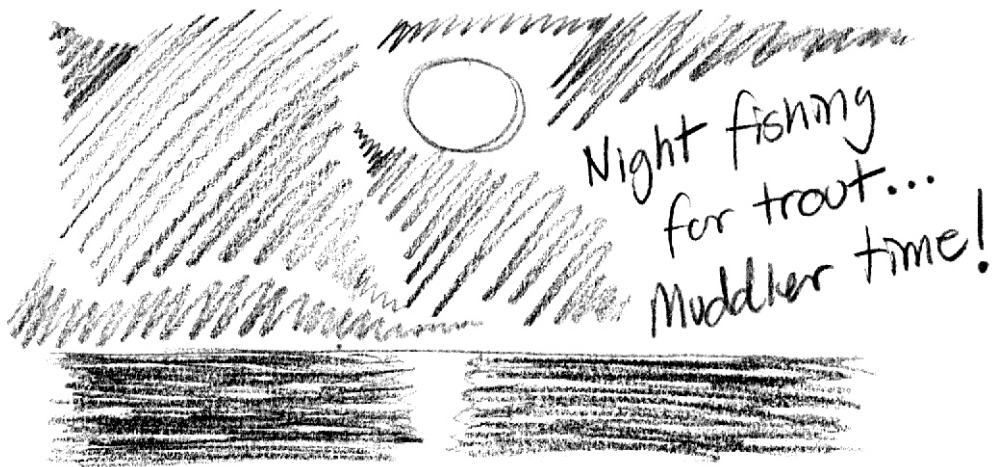


Muddler

Martin Joergensens entry in
The Illustrated pattern swap

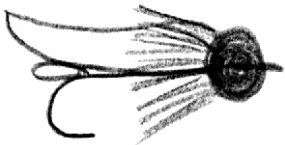


It's probably no coincidence that muddlers are some of my favorite flies. Not only do I like tying them, but the kind of fishing for which they are so well suited - night fishing - is the fishing that I find most fascinating and exciting.

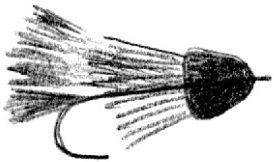
The mother of all muddlers - The Muddler Minnow - was conceived by Don Gapen. This simple and beautiful pattern has survived and is still catching fish as well as eyes all over the world. I actually never tied a genuine Muddler Minnow. The specimen depicted above was given to me by Steven Fernandez.



Muddler Minnow



"German" Type

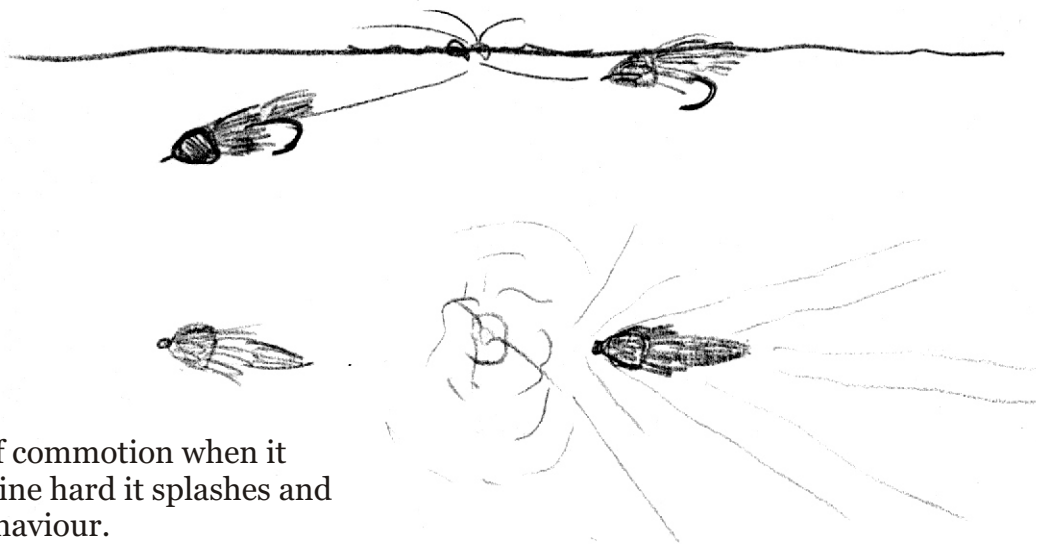


My hair wing type

My own muddlers are somewhat unlike other muddlers I have seen. I trim the heads in a way that I rarely see anybody else do. Most of the muddlers I have seen have heads that are cut to flush with the collar of hair - like on Steve's fly above, which was trimmed with a razor blade. The Swedish fly tyer Lennart Bergquist uses a pair of scissors, but trims the fly from behind. This makes a head and collar that looks much like a Streaking Caddis. Mine have a distinct head with a back rim that gives the fly character and adds turbulence when it moves through water.

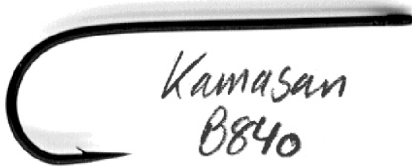
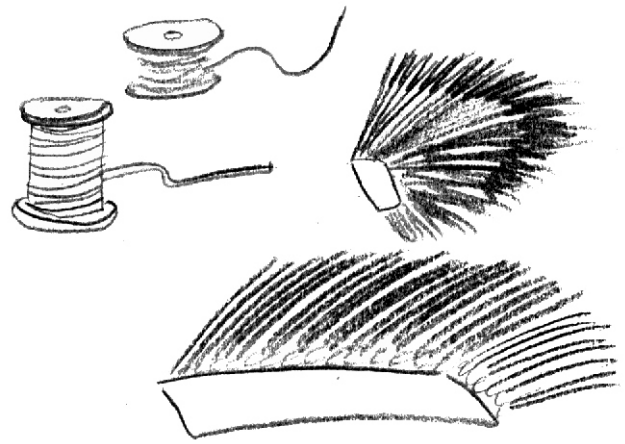
The muddlers are excellent for night fishing because they both offer a clear profile, move a lot of water and swim high in the water. This means that fish dwelling in deeper water will feel them and see them easily against the night sky.

The muddler makes a lot of commotion when it moves, and if you pull the line hard it splashes and dives - a typical baitfish behaviour.



For this pattern I used:

Hook: Kamasan B840, black streamer hook
Thread: Strong (Bennechi 12/0)
Tail: Soft black polar fox
Body: Flat silver tinsel
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Wing: Polar fox
Collar: Tips of natural deer hair
Head: Trimmed, spun deer hair

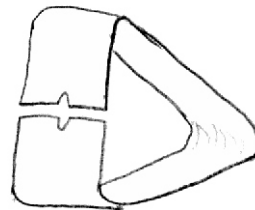
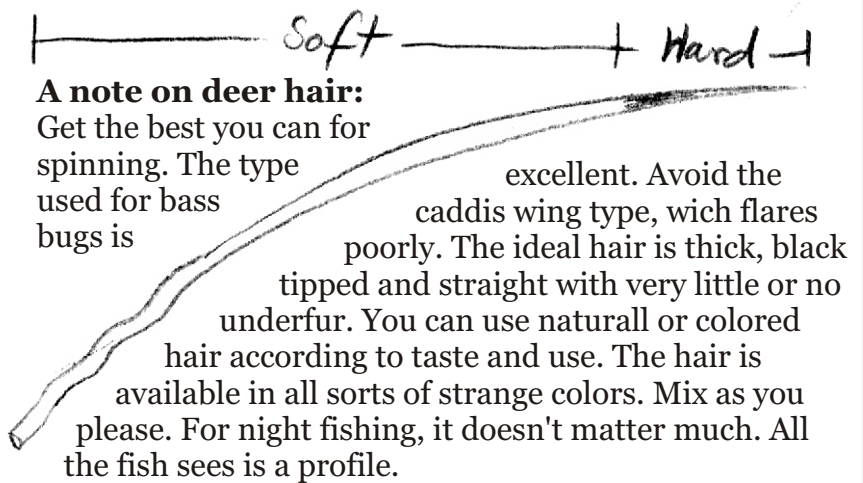


Tying a muddler is like tying any kind of fly except for one thing: the head.

This is made up of compressed deer hair which is later trimmed to a suitable shape. Follow these steps:

- 1) Finish the first part of the fly and be sure to leave a piece of the shank bare for the head.
- 2) Cut a bunch of straight deer hair with fine dark tips.
- 3) Remove all underfur
- 4) Trim the hair a bit longer than needed.
- 5) Stack the hair to even the tips.
- 6) Trim to 1½ of the collar length.
- 7) Stack again.
- 8) Tie in on your side of the hook shank.
- 9) Lay two fairly loose turns and then tighten the thread gradually on the third one.
- 10) Guide the hair and slowly let it go to allow it to spin around the hook shank.
- 11) Take a few turns of thread through the bunch.
- 12) Press it against the collar using fingers or tool (Chris Helm' Brassie recommended)
- 13) Lay some turns of thread in front of the bundle.
- 14) Add a bit of varnish to the bases of the hair and the wraps (optional)
- 15) Prepare another bundle. This does not need the nice tips and straightness of the first.
- 16) Use the same method to spin, compress and varnish it.
- 17) Repeat the above steps until the shank is filled and the hook eye is covered
- 18) Whip finish and varnish throughly
- 19) Let dry
- 20) Trim...

The last little word sounds easy, but is really quite difficult. My method of stacking and trimming the first bundle of hair makes trimming around the collar easier, but getting a neat muddler head requires practice just the same.



Chris Helm's
hair compressor
"Brassie"

Happy trimmin'
martinj@login.dknet.dk

MARTIN

