**Black Matuka**

Hook: 5263BL, sizes 4-8, weight to suit

Thread: Black

Rib: Fine wire

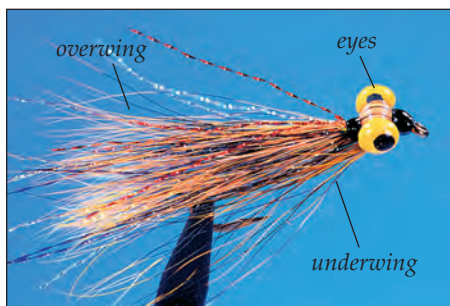
Abdomen: Black dubbing

Thorax: Also called a "throat"; red dubbing

Wing: Black hen hackle, two feathers face to face tied Matuka style, and black and red Krystal Flash

Hackle: Black saddle

Eyes: Yellow/black, painted onto head, optional

**Clouser Minnow (Bob Clouser)**

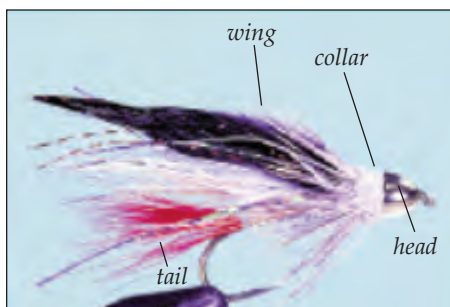
Hook: 5263BL, sizes 4-8

Thread: Black

Eyes: Steel barbell, painted to suit

Overwing: Red fox squirrel hair with gold, red, and pearl Krystal Flash

Underwing: Red fox squirrel dyed yellow

**Marabou Muddler**

Hook: 5263BL, sizes 2-8, weight to suit

Head: Gold conehead, optional

Tail: Red hackle fibers

Abdomen: Silver holographic tinsel

Underwing: Natural brown bucktail or substitute brown calf tail

Overwing: Any color(s) of marabou, and silver holographic Flashabou and red Krystal Flash

Topping: Peacock (not shown on demonstration fly)

Collar: Deer or caribou hair

Head: Trimmed deer hair

Chapter 13

Matuka, Clouser Minnow, and Marabou Muddler

The Matuka is a *style* of streamer whereby the wing is tied on edge along or over the back of the fly. There are all colors of Matukas and they can be tied to represent any fish, such as shiners, shad, sculpin, roach, tadpoles, etc. The Black Matuka could imitate various darker fish, leech, eels, etc. It provides practice weighting a hook, creating a shaggy dubbed abdomen and thorax, and installing standard hackle and a matuka wing. This wing is a hen hackle feather, but it could be any feather, and rabbit or other fur on-the-hide is often used.

Following the Matuka is the Clouser Minnow, a fly that has fooled more species of fish in more waters than any other. Developed by small-mouth bass expert Bob Clouser, it belongs in every angler's arsenal—saltwater, bass, trout, exotics, etc. Remember, all fish love to eat fish and the larger the fish, the bigger their prey. The tying technique is unique to this pattern, but it can be adapted to represent any species of fish. It also offers practice "stacking" hair.

Next is the classic Marabou Muddler, which is a variation of the even more classic Muddler Minnow. Developed in the 1950s by Don Gapen, the Muddler Minnow revolutionized the tying style and shape of streamer flies. Today, its influence is found in many popular patterns.

The Marabou Muddler was popularized by Dan Bailey and Joe Brooks in the 1960s and continues to reside in fly boxes throughout the world. It is a "big fish" fly that can be tied in many colors, combinations of colors, and various sizes and weights.

New techniques include creating a tinsel body and bucktail underwing. The stiffer bucktail underwing helps keep the softer marabou overwing in position and provides a little mottling effect. Calf tail is often substituted for bucktail on this and other streamers. The marabou wing is like the previously tied Marabou Leech. The deer hair collar and trimmed deer hair head are more difficult. Select moderately soft deer hair that flares when it is tied down, but still has some dark color in the tips. Surround the marabou wing with a bunch of "stacked" deer and tie it down at the immediate front of the marabou wing. This forms the collar. Next, select another bunch of deer hair, trim the tips, and "flare" it in front of the collar. You may need to do this two or three times to fill in all the space between the conehead and wing. Work with small bunches of hair to start. Wrap the thread tightly through the hair, tie off the thread, and trim the hair head to shape.



Black Matuka

1. First, cover the hook with thread, then add desired amount of steel wire. Then tie in the fine wire that becomes the rib, and finally, begin dubbing the abdomen. This is scraggly, somewhat robust dubbing.



4. Trim the fuzzy butt off at the length you want the wing to be, usually twice the hook length.



7. The first turn of wire rib is in place. Continue "ribbing" through the abdomen, being careful to keep the wing square or straight across the top. Do not tie down any fibers.



10. Hackle has been tied off, but the tip has not yet been trimmed off in this front view. Trim tip and finish fly.



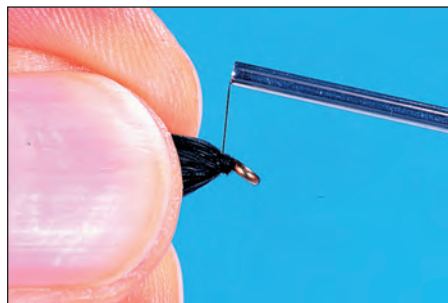
2. Work a taper into the abdomen. Either work back to front with an increasing amount of dubbing on the thread, or double back, then forward, or begin at center point, wrap forward, back, forward. The red "throat" or "gills" adds contrast, and trout like red.



5. Tie the feathers onto the hook at this point, being certain the feathers remain together on edge over the top of the hook. The wire rib ties the feathers down at the back of the abdomen.



8. The rib and wing tie down is complete. The thread position pictured is where the hackle should be tied in place. Hackle and the thread head fill in the space left. Note that space for hackle and a vacant area behind the hook eye remains to build the head.



11. Stroke all fibers away from the head area and finish a neat tapered head.



3. These two hen hackles become the "Matuka" wing. To even the tips, face the dull (concave) sides together, essentially forming a single-looking flat feather free of curvature.



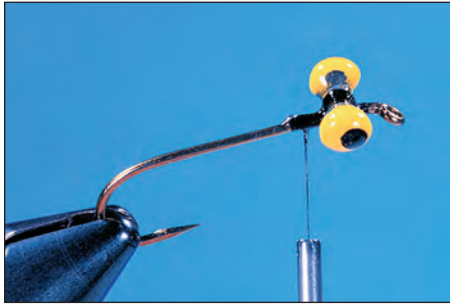
6. Spread the fibers at the tail tie-down area where the first turn of wire rib goes. This makes it easy to secure the feathers without creating errant fibers and twisting or rolling the wing out of alignment. Pull wing tight and secure.



9. Add red, pearl, and black Krystal Flash along sides. Tie hackle at front of "gills." Wrap hackle back to front, each succeeding turn placed immediately in front of the last. Leave no space between wraps. Finished hackle should angle back, dull side to back.



12. Finished Black Matuka. Notice proportions, angle of hackle, tapered abdomen, and silhouette. If you were a fish and this came into your territory, wouldn't you be tempted to eat or at least attack it? Many have!

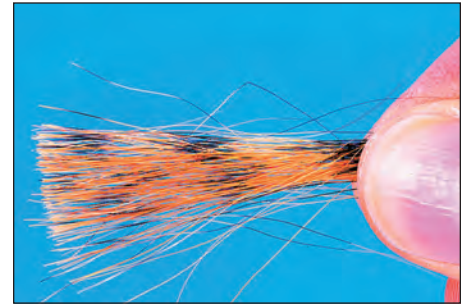


Clouser Minnow

1. Secure barbell eyes, size to suit—these are heavy (paint if you like or purchase pre-painted), onto hook at 85-90 percent mark. X-wrap between, around, and underneath the eyes. Zap-a-Gap helps secure eyes in place.



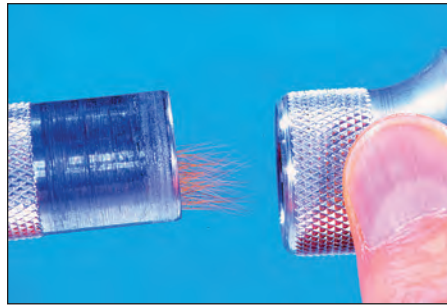
2. Trim off a bunch of squirrel hair, which will be “stacked.” A stacker is a take-apart tool indispensable for evening the tips of hair.



3. Before stacking, hold hair by tips and pull out all shorter hairs, reducing bunch by 20-30 percent, which facilitates “stacking.”



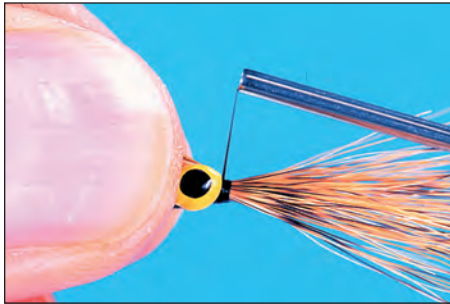
4. Place the natural tips (end to be stacked) into stacker. Place index and third finger over top of stacker and tap bottom on a hard surface. Straight moose body hair stacks with one or two taps, while crinkly calf may require over 30.



5. Angle stacker up slightly and slowly remove end, revealing stacked hair. Remove tips with right hand, then hold butts in left hand. Pull away any “short” fibers with right hand.



6. Hold butt ends with right hand behind hook eye. Hair extends over and between eyes. Measure length of wing. Pinch hair tightly around top of hook eye. Tentatively secure with three to four turns of thread with left hand.



7. This helps begin tie in. It is difficult to hold fibers in the usual left hand to secure because of tight space between eyes and hook eye, so we begin as per photo 6, then change hands to finish tie-down.



8. Once secure in front of eyes, secure behind eyes as pictured, tying down the top wing. Trim butts well behind or away from hook eye. Tie in Krystal Flash along underside, bottom, top, or sides of wing.



9. Repeat steps two through five and secure another bunch of hair along the underside of hook, exactly as you did over the top. If you have a rotating vise, this is easier. Start tie in, holding hair with right hand.



10. Switch to left hand, holding hair, and wrap thread with right hand, finishing a secure tie down. Bottom wing should be same length as top. Tie in close to eyes so there is room to trim fibers behind hook eye.



11. Notice tie in and trim of bottom wing. If wing is not kept back from the hook eye, it is not possible to trim fibers as pictured, leaving space to finish the thread head.



12. Finish off the head and lacquer. Epoxy makes a slick, smooth finish that should outlast the fly. Note Krystal Flash in wing. The Clouser can imitate any baitfish or be tied in any “attractor” color.



Marabou Muddler

1. Slide conehead onto hook. Tie in the red hackle fiber tail, then tie in a five-inch section of medium to wide (depends on hook size) flat tinsel. Wrap tinsel back to tail and back to cone and tie down.



2. Select several fibers of natural bucktail or tan calf. Stack the tips evenly in a stacker and tie in behind cone. A loop of thread can be taken under and around wing to help bunch it together and stand it up. Trim butt ends as pictured.



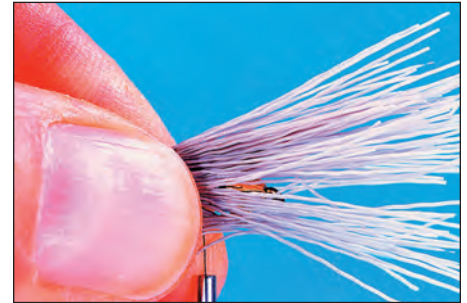
3. Select marabou for wing. This is one black and one white plume with the center stem trimmed out. Bunch the fibers together so the tips are even and secure over bucktail underwing.



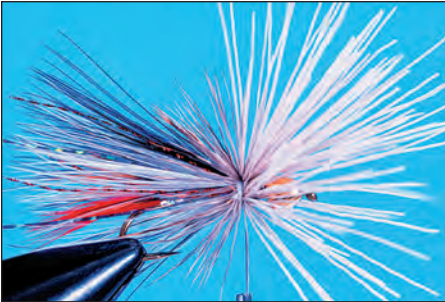
4. Marabou wing is in place. Lash down securely directly on top of the hook. Length extends about to end of tail. Tie in Flashabou, Krystal Flash, etc. for wing highlights (see photo 5) and peacock topping, (not shown) if desired.



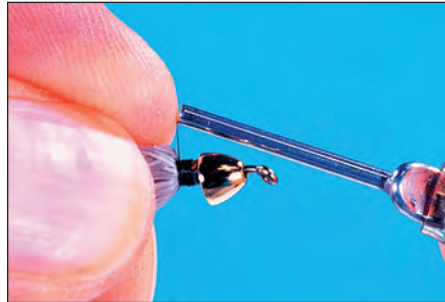
5. Select a clump of medium soft deer hair that flares when lashed down to hook. If it doesn't flare, you can't get the trimmed effect or pack the fibers densely enough. Stack tips evenly. Hold in right hand to measure distance.



6. Change grasp to left hand, pinching fibers immediately in front of wing. Tie in at immediate front of wing. Cinch the thread slowly as this will probably test its breaking strength. Use heavier thread if needed.



7. The deer hair collar has been tied in place, encircling the hook 360 degrees. The butt ends are a bit long and difficult to control. Trim them by 50 percent. These fibers later become part of the "spun" and trimmed hair head.



8. There should be empty space between this tie-in and the cone. Stroke all the butt ends back away from the cone, tying them back, making room for the remaining hair that forms the head.



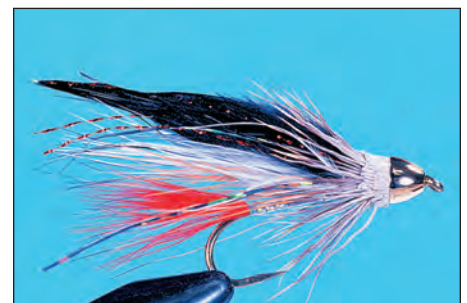
9. Trim a section of soft deer or caribou. Prepare it as shown—tips have been trimmed off—and hold it in your left hand. Note that caribou is perfect for this type of "hair spinning" but not for a collar because it is too soft and colorless.



10. Place hair as pictured and tie down as shown. Easy does it! Allow hair to roll and spread out, which is good. Sometimes one clump fills in 360 degrees around the hook; sometimes it takes two or more clumps.



11. Wrap thread tightly through the hair so it disappears to just behind cone. Finish off knots, trim thread. Be certain thread wraps penetrate the hair to the hook; otherwise, it shows or gets cut in the trim process.



12. Razor blade hair to shape. Continue taper of cone. Do not trim collar. All "spun" hair flies—Irresistible, Muddler, bass bugs, etc.—are tied like this. It takes practice, but you have an idea of how to do it!