

**Hatching Midge** (Randall Kaufmann)

- Hook: 900BL, sizes 12-18  
 Thread: Black  
 Shuck: Gray or black CDC with a few strands of matching Z-Lon over top  
 Rib: White thread  
 Abdomen: Black Superfine or thread; very thin  
 Wingcase: Gray or black CDC pulled loosely over top of thorax  
 Hackle: Grizzly, three to four turns standard style, evenly spaced throughout thorax; hackle slightly undersized  
 Thorax: Peacock  
 Antennae: Gray or black CDC protruding slightly out over eye

**Hatching Mayfly, PMD** (Randall Kaufmann)

- Hook: 900BL, sizes 16-20  
 Thread: Yellow  
 Shuck: Gray CDC with a few strands of Z-Lon over top  
 Rib: Yellow thread  
 Abdomen: Yellow goose or turkey biot  
 Wingcase: Gray CDC pulled loosely over top of thorax  
 Hackle: Grizzly, three to four turns standard style, evenly spaced throughout thorax; hackle slightly undersized  
 Thorax: Peacock  
 Antennae: Gray CDC protruding slightly out over eye

## Chapter 13

## Hatching Midge

By their sheer numbers, midges, or chironomids, are considered the most important food source of trout, especially in lakes. Midges inhabit just about every damp spot on earth, and they hatch nearly every day that water is ice-free. Midges come in all sizes and colors, but black, olive, and gray in sizes 16-22 are the most prevalent. Northwest lakes such as Dry Falls, Lenore, Nunnally, and many of the fabled lakes in the area around Kamloops, British Columbia, offer sizes 8 and 10 magnum midge fishing.

I have spent many hours drifting in a float tube observing midges emerge, hatch, and take flight. Feeding activity is usually centered on emerging pupa just subsurface, but the surface “hatching” stage is also preyed upon, especially when winds are calm and humidity is high. Damp conditions delay flight, and fish often gulp the waiting hatchlings at the surface.

The Hatching Midge represents a pre-adult midge halfway out of its nymphal shuck. It is also an excellent representation of a stillborn midge—those that, for one reason or another, become entangled or are otherwise unable to complete their emergence or transformation into adults. Anglers should fish these dead drift, perhaps with a slight twitch, on lake waters. Long 10- to 15-foot 5X to 7X leaders are sometimes necessary. Anglers interested in learning more about midge fishing lakes should read *Lake Fishing With A Fly*.

This style of fly also lends itself nicely to emerging or hatching mayflies. Vary the size and color to suit your needs. Tyers who have a basic understanding of tying nymphs will tie the Hatching Midge with ease. I have selected it because it is an excellent review of basic technique and nymph-dry fly parts, including a shuck, wingcase, antennae, thorax, and hackle.



Midges crawl from their nymphal shucks on the water's surface. Once free, they extend and dry their wings and take flight.



1. Cover hook shank with thread. Select a CDC feather with even tips. Shuck should be length of hook shank or slightly shorter and tied flat. Tie material in at the 60-percent mark. Wrap back to tail tie-in, creating level underbody.



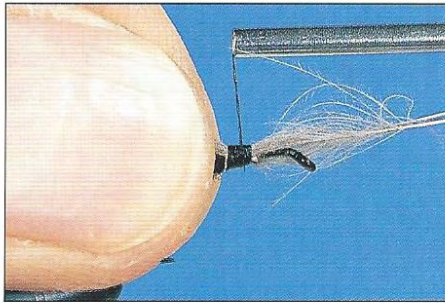
2. Tie in rib at tail area. Dub Superfine onto thread sparsely and wrap body as shown. Note position where CDC butt ends were tied down and trimmed. This is where abdomen will end.



3. Individual strands of thread (ribbing) have an annoying habit of separating. Twisting thread keeps it together, but do not soil section which will be used on the fly. Rib must be tight. Check with your fingernail. Tie off and trim excess.



4. Select a CDC feather for wingcase. When pulled over top, tips (natural ends) will become antennae, which is a short tuft. If you judge length properly, you will not need to trim it. CDC can be trimmed with your fingers (looks natural) or your scissors.



5. Change hands. Tie in with up-between-the-fingers technique and wrap forward, creating a smooth foundation tapering slightly toward hook eye.



6. Trim butt ends. Proper wingcase tie in. Note that the area where the thread head will eventually be placed has not been infringed upon and that the wingcase is secured directly on top of the hook. Position thread as shown.



7. Select and prepare a hackle, which will be wrapped standard style, except that it will be evenly spaced (three to four turns) through thorax area. Tie in peacock herl.



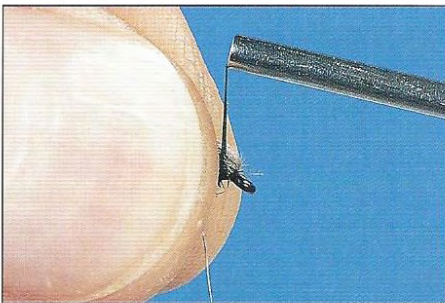
8. Photo shows proper method for making a close, clean cut. Your right hand acts as a bobbin rest, keeping thread out of cut area. Hold peacock taut with your right hand. Rest scissors against hook shank and trim with scissors points.



9. Wrap hackle, shiny side facing back, forward through thorax and tie it off at same position at which peacock was tied off. Make one clean scissors cut. There should be no wild hackle fibers protruding from tie-off area.



10. Fold hackle away from top of thorax or trim it. Pull wingcase forward loosely over top of thorax. There should be plenty of air space between thorax and wingcase. Pinch your thumb and forefinger around hook eye and secure wingcase in place at back of thread head.



11. Using your fingers, encompass all fibers. Now it is easy to wrap a few turns of thread forward to hook eye and back to rear of thread head and finish it off. Ten turns of thread are enough.



12. Finished Hatching Midge.