

Simplicity Minnow (Tube Fly)

Step-By-Step Tying Instructions

Created and Tied by Ray Tucker ("letumgo") - 03-Jul-2007



Ingredients (Listed in the Order of Use)

- Tube - HMM Plastic Tube Fly Tubing
(1" Long Piece of 1/8" OD for the back part of the fly) Plus
(5/8" Long Piece of 3/32" OD for the front part of the fly)
- Thread - Tan UNI-Thread (6/0)
- Standard Rabbit Zonker Strip (1/8" wide) - Golden Tan (by Rumph)
Note - Black, Brown or Rusty-Brown are good colors for leach or crayfish imitations
- Flash (Optional) - Two or Three Strands of Mirage Flashabou (Pearl)
- Cone Head - Small (3/32") or Large (1/8") depending on how fishing depth & current speed
- Hook - Daiichi Model 2450 / Size 6 (or similar straight eye tube fly hook)

Tools

- Tube Fly Vice & mandrels
- Needle Nose Pliers with flat jaws (use to flatten tube so hook eye inserts easily)

Step-by-Step Tying Instructions:



The materials for this fly are very simple.



Cut the 1/8" OD plastic tubing into a piece 1" long. Cut the 3/32" OD plastic tubing into a piece 5/8" long. Insert the tube fly mandrel into the pieces of tubing to hold them in alignment while inserting them together.

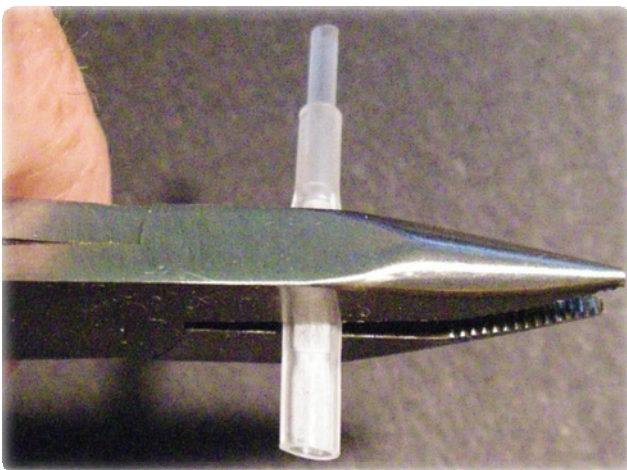


I have drilled holes into the edge of my fly tying bench to help with the process of inserting the pieces of tubes together. Insert the end of the mandrel into the small hole and then push down on the top tube. This method ensures that the tube does not flex or bend while pushing the tubes together and makes it very easy to control the insertion depth.



Here is what they look like after they have been pushed together.

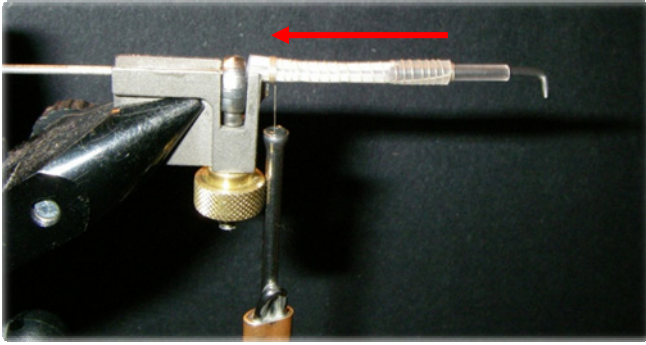
CAUTION - Be sure to leave enough of the smaller tube projecting past the end of the cone head for the melting step (later step). Allow roughly a 1/8" projection which is enough material to melt the end when the fly is finished.



Take a pair of needle nose pliers and flatten the large diameter tubing. Be sure to use the flat section of the jaw, not the serrated section.

This step will make the cross-section of the tubing an oval shape. Doing this step makes it easier to insert the eye of the hook into the tube and keeps the hook from rotating once it is in place.

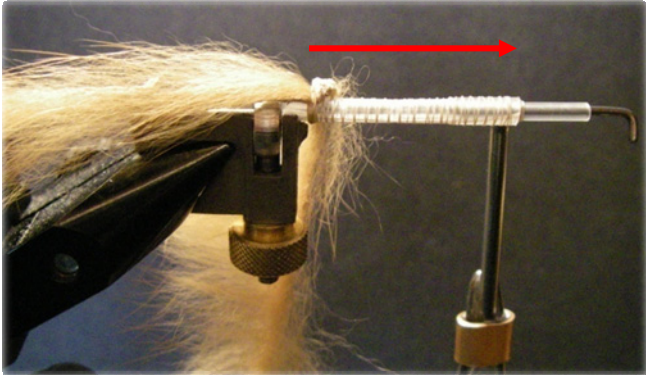




Mount the prepared tube on the center mandrel and place it into the tube fly vice. The left end of the larger diameter tube should overlap the lip of the tube fly vice by about 1/8". When the brass knob is tightened, the ring clamps the tube and mandrel in place helping to prevent the tube from spinning during the tying process.

Mount your thread on the large diameter tubing and run it to the back end of the tube.

The red arrow indicates the tying direction.



Tie in the rabbit zonker strip and then run your tying thread to the right edge of the large diameter tubing.

The end of the zonker strip (the tail) should project roughly 1 1/2" past the end of the fly.



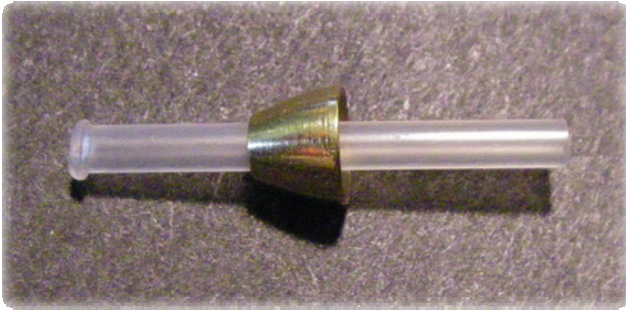
Wind the zonker strip in edge-to-edge wraps to the front of the fly. Pause after each wrap to brush the fur towards the back of the fly.

When the zonker strip reaches the front edge of the large diameter tubing, tie it off. Double whip finish the fly and trim off the tying thread.



Take the fly out of the tube fly vice and reverse the direction of the inner mandrel (*the hooked end should be at the tail end of the fly*). Leaving the metal mandrel in place ensures the center of the fly remains open during the melting step.

Insert the cone head onto the fly and push firmly into place. Use a butane lighter to melt the end of the tube to hold the cone head in place. Wait a few seconds for the plastic to solidify before removing the center mandrel.



If you intend to use the large diameter cone heads (1/8" diameter), you do not need to use the small diameter tubing. Simply cut the tubing to length (roughly 1" long) and melt the end of the tube to hold the cone head in place.

The fly can be tied with the cone head already in place.

Finished Fly



This version does not have any flash. This version is intended for fishing in very clear water where the fish can be easily spooked by flash.

