

Zebra Midges

Quite a few times last season, I had very good luck fishing a Zebra midge pattern that I've tied on curved emerger / scud hooks (usually Daiichi #1130) using black thread, a silver bead and silver wire rib with a small peacock herl behind the bead.

While visiting the Driftless Angler shop late last season, Mat Wagner, mentioned to me that he had good luck using a red thread rib instead of a silver wire.

Awhile back, I saw a youtube video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGQEPZqNZU8>) taken from Ralph & Lisa Cutter's video "*Bugs of the Underworld*". From what I gathered in this video clip, chironomids appear to rise to the surface pretty much straight-shaped and form their U-shaped appearance once reaching the surface and before breaking through the water's surface film.

So, for this year, I thought that I'd tie my Zebra midge nymph versions on standard wet fly / nymph hooks (Daiichi #1550). In addition, after watching the video a couple times, I thought it worthwhile to tie a few Zebra-midge-style midges without a bead but using the curved Daiichi #1130 hooks, and CDC "puff" as a small wing to keep the midge on / close to the surface film. Will find out in a couple months whether these work.



Here's the dressings that I've used for the above flies:

Zebra Midge Nymph

Hook: Daiichi #1550 – Size 14 - 18
Thread: 6/0 Black Uni-thread
Body: Black Tying Thread
Thorax: Peacock Herl
Ribbing: Small Silver or Red Ultra-wire
Bead: Silver Cyclops (tungsten – optional)

Zebra Midge CDC Emerger

Hook: Daiichi #1130 – Size 14 - 18
Thread: 6/0 Black Uni-thread
Body: Black Tying Thread
Thorax: None
Wing: White CDC "Oiler Puff"
Ribbing: Small Silver or Red Ultra-wire
Bead: None