



International Federation of  
**FLY FISHERS**

Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing

## FLY OF THE MONTH

# “Hannie’s Damselfly”



Edition: November

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Photographed By: **Fred Hannie**

Creator: Fred Hannie

Guest Tier: **Fred Hannie**

### **Hannie’s Damselfly**

Here is an imitative dry fly pattern that casts well, floats high and looks very much like its living counterpart. Though not suggested for beginning tiers they may not be at too much of a disadvantage compared to more experienced tiers as this pattern utilizes non-typical tying skill sets. We will use deer hair in this pattern but probably not as you have seen it used before. This pattern will have an extended body that will have you tying directly onto a strand monofilament with little or no tension from your bobbin. But don’t be intimidated because it takes you out of your fly tying comfort zone, adding realism to a fly sometimes demands it.

So if I haven’t scared you off yet you may take comfort in knowing the finished fly in the photo is taken to its most imitative state. That means there are features of this pattern that can be omitted without diminishing the fly’s effectiveness. As I take you through the tying steps I will cover the few steps that can be omitted and you can decide for yourselves what to keep.

Size and color will be dependent on the damselflies in your area. I have chosen to mimic the male Familiar Bluet which range in size between 29 -39 mm. And I made the gender distinction because like birds the male damselfly is brightly colored whereas the females tend to be dull or pale in comparison. Using white tying thread allows you to color the thread with markers to match almost any color damsel you choose. So let’s get started.

## Materials

Hook: Daiichi Hook 1130 size 16

Thread: Danville's Fly master 6/0 white thread

Body: Deer Hair, white or natural

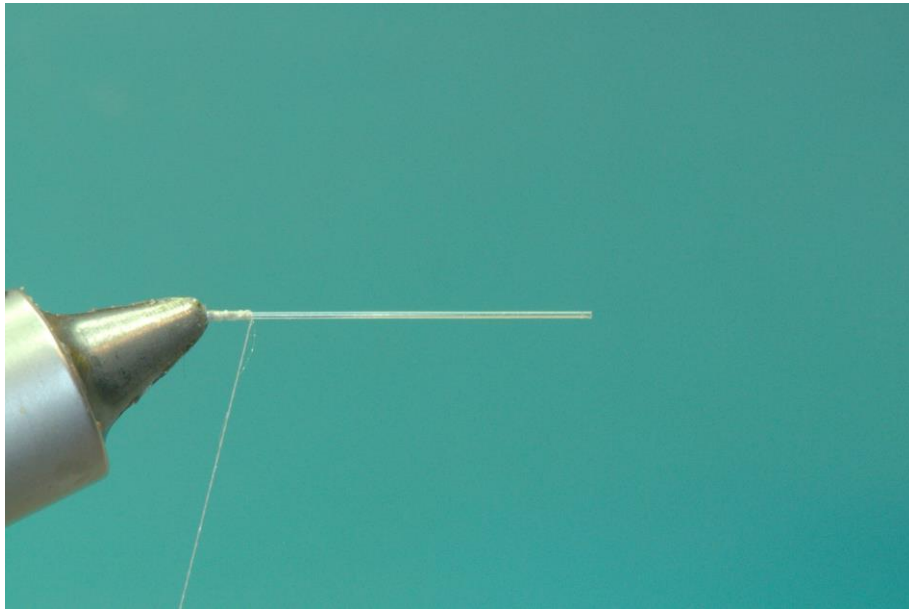
Monofilament in pound test sizes 2 Lb, 10 Lb and 100 Lb

Organza ribbon

Flex Seal or Flexament

Markers

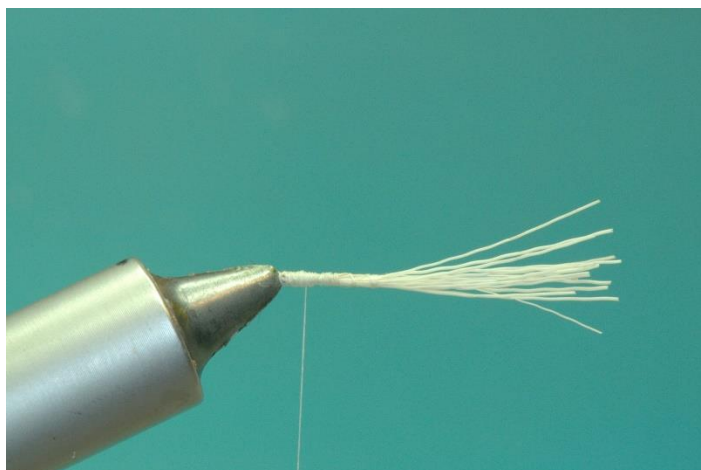
## Tying Steps



### **Step 1**

The extended abdomen is made from deer hair thread and monofilament. The damselfly I'm imitating is between 29 - 39 mm long. I will make this one 35 mm long which tells me my abdomen needs to be 27 mm to be of correct proportions. Place a strand of 10 lb mono longer than 27 mm in the vise and trim it to size. Tie on with the white thread where the mono is stiffest, next to the vise jaws.

(An adjustable bobbin with tension control loosened all the way works best. If using a standard bobbin you may want to stretch the ends to loosen your thread tension.)



### Step 2

To the monofilament tie on about twelve deer hair strands with loose thread wraps. Use multiple light thread wraps so as not to flare the deer hair.



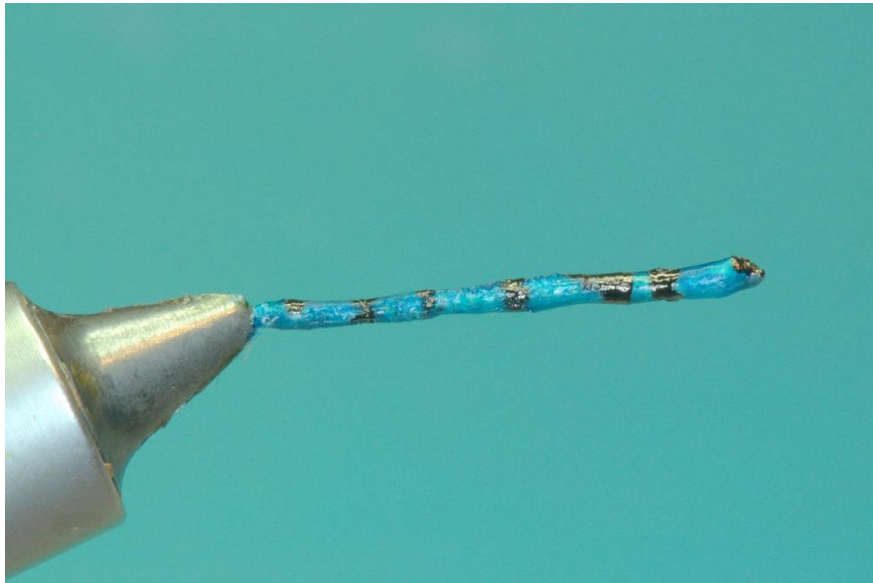
### Step 3

Continue to wrap the hair down to the end of the mono. If there is any excess fold it over the end of the mono and wrap it down. Work your thread back to the vise and whip finish. Coat the abdomen with Flex seal.



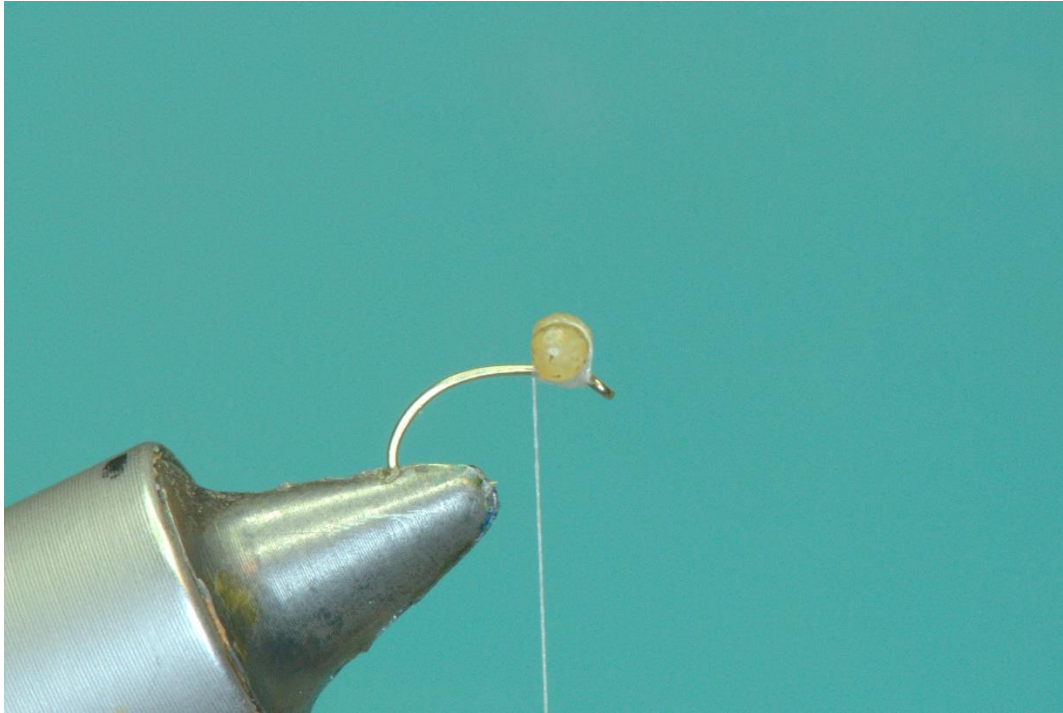
#### Step 4

When the head cement is dry add your base color.



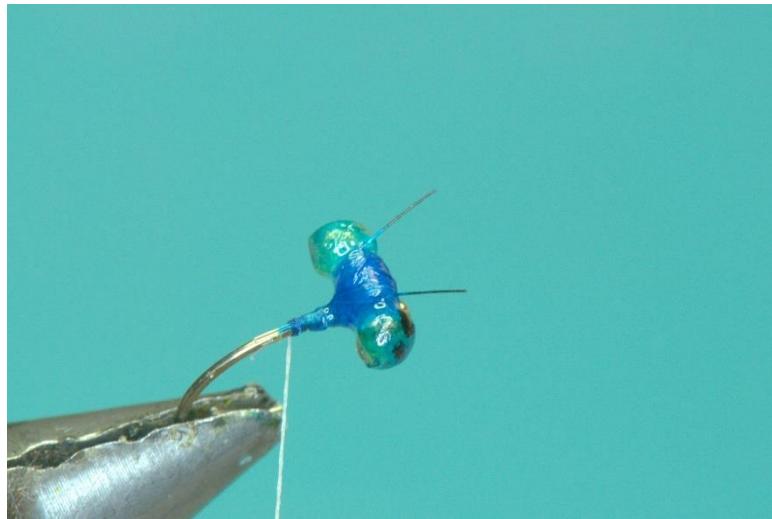
#### Step 5

Adding a contrasting color is nature's camouflage and may catch more fishermen than fish with this fly. This is a detail you can omit but it won't make the fly that much quicker to tie and it looks cool. Put a light coat of Flex seal on the abdomen before you remove it from the vise and set it aside as we prepare the hook



### Step 6

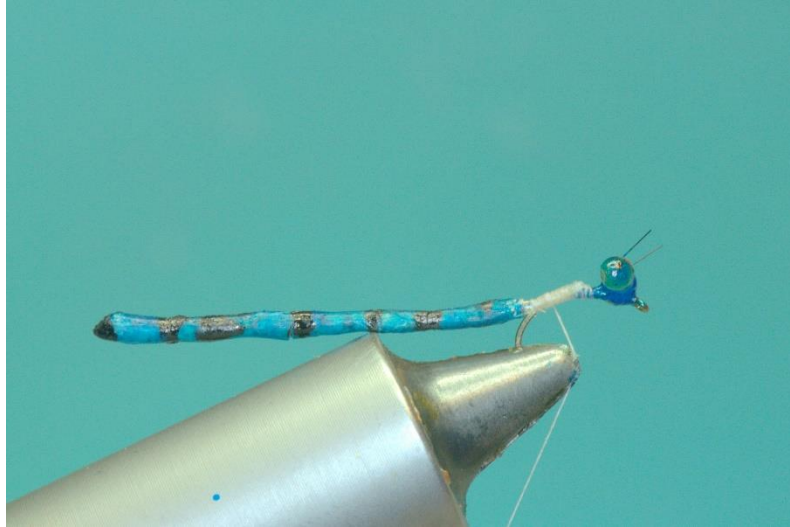
With the hook securely in the vise tie on next to the hook eye. Cut a 10mm piece of 100 lb mono for the eyes. Grasp the mono in the center with tweezers and melt the ends to form the eyes. Using figure 8 wraps tie the eyes on top of the hook next to the hook eye



### Step 7

The antennae are tied in on top of the eyes using 2 lb mono. (Not needed but looks cool). Color the eyes and the thread with the appropriate color.





### Step 8

Tie in the abdomen so that your damsel is the proper length. Using a millimeter ruler I tie in my abdomen so that the length of the fly is 35 mm. This will ensure my thorax is the right proportions



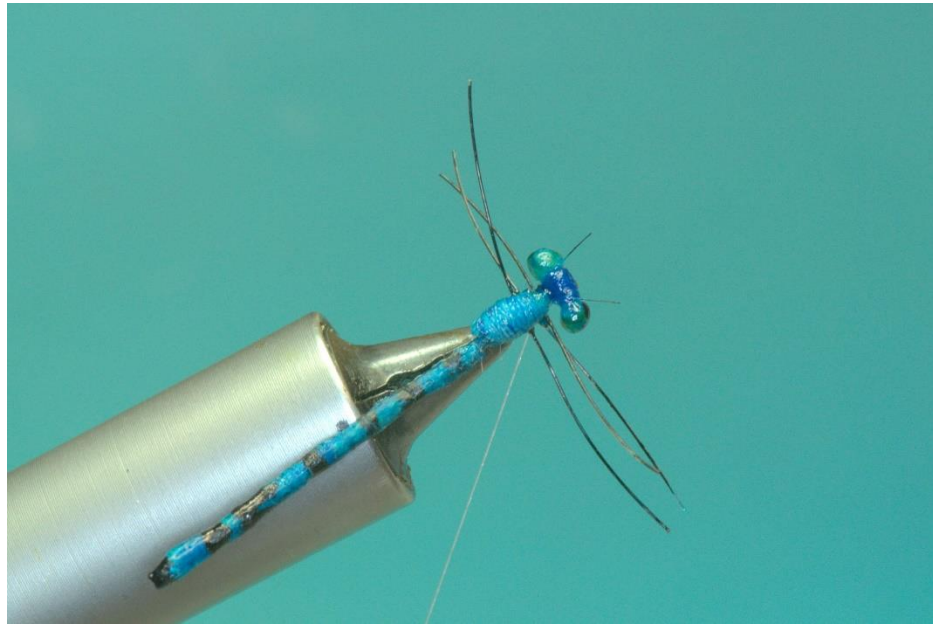
### Step 9

To the thorax area tie in a small pinch of deer hair, about three dozen strands. Wrap lightly as not to flare the hairs



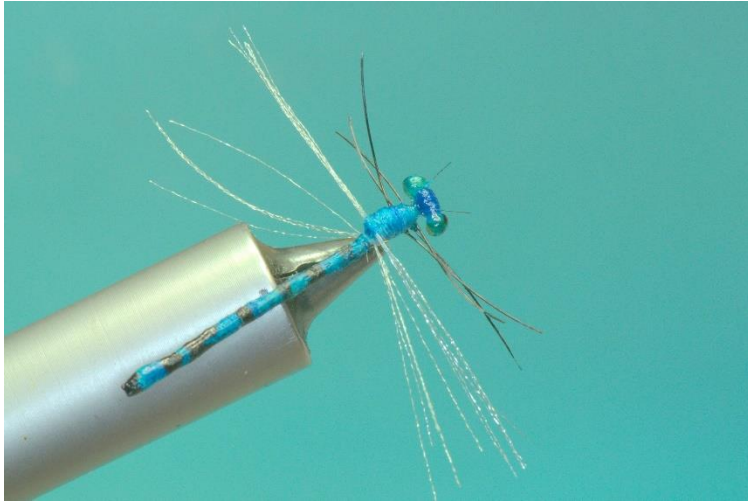
**Step 10**

Wrap to the back of the thorax and then forward toward the eyes and trim the excess.



**Step 11**

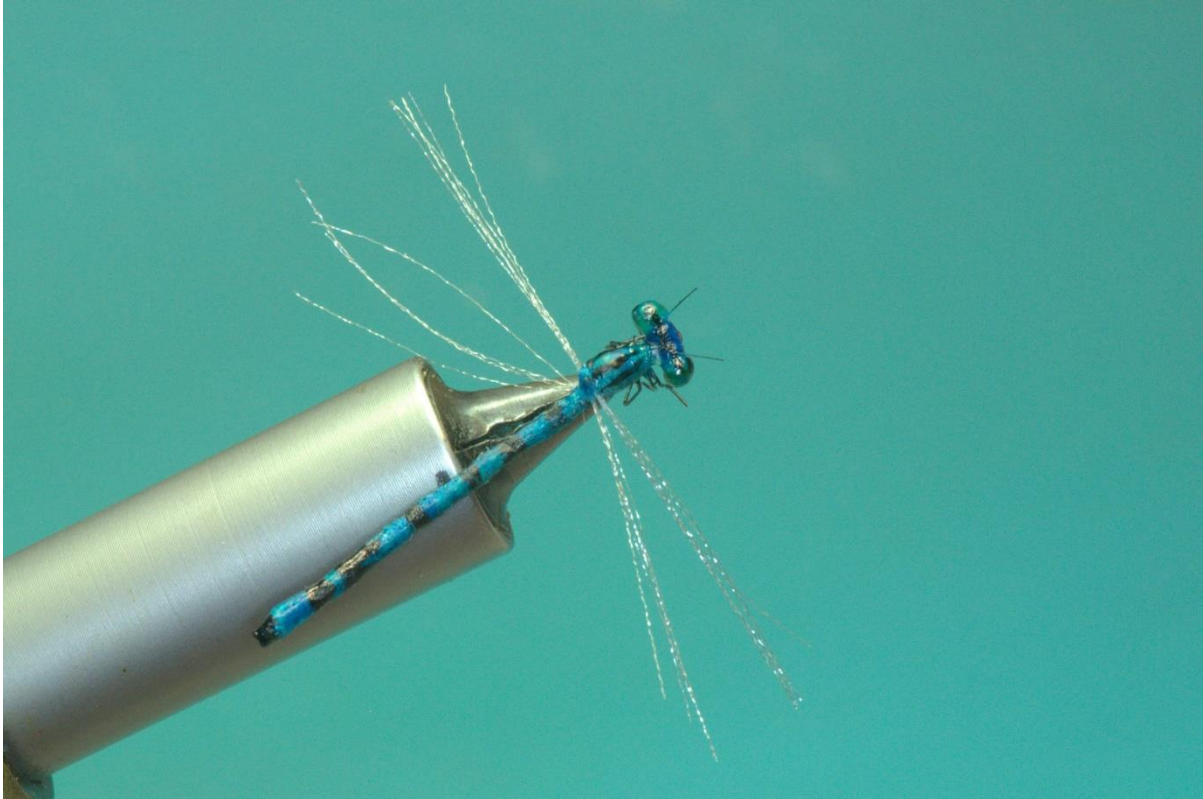
Tie in three sets of legs of 2 lb monofilament to the underneath of the fly. Tie the legs to the front half of the thorax. Color the thorax and seal with head cement.



### Step 12

The wings are tied to the back of the thorax in two small sets using only a few strands of organza ribbon fibers. You can use a small dot of super glue gel to hold the wing material in place before wrapping them with thread.



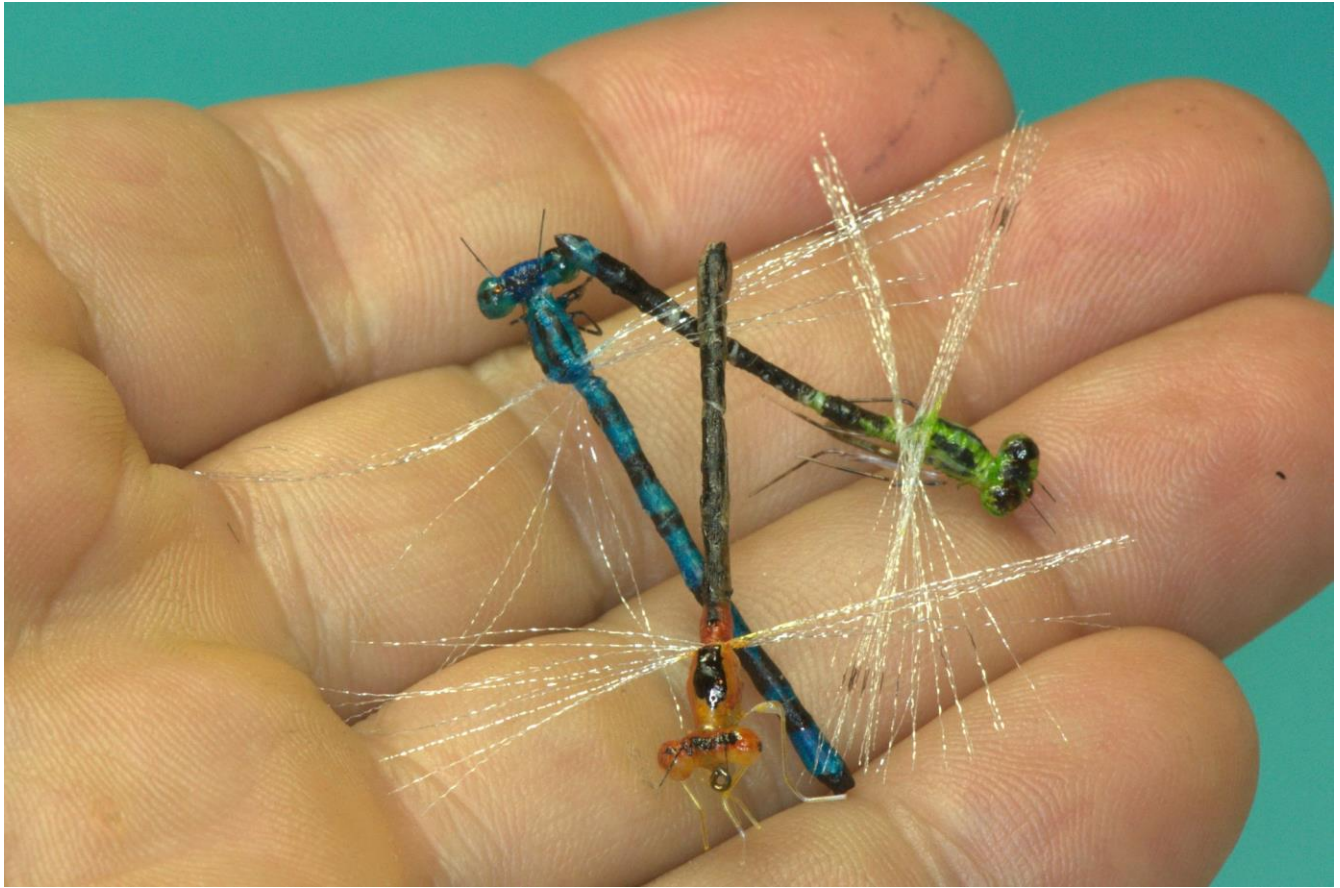


### Step 13

At this point you can whip finish and remove your thread. The last details are stripes on the thorax and heat kinking the mono legs. To heat kink the legs requires the warming of a needle or bodkin and applying them to the area of mono you want to set. Practice on scrap mono before trying this technique on the fly. Too much heat will cause you to burn a mono leg completely through.

So there you go. If done correctly the fly should appear as fragile as its living counterpart yet because of its construction, it will be more durable than most traditional patterns.







Editors Notes: Comments from the editor.

Fly of the Month:

Do you know someone who deserves to be featured in the Fly of the Month? If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact Jerry Coviello at [ftg@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:ftg@fedflyfishers.org).

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly.

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You can direct any questions or comments to  
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