



**JULY 2022**  
**FLY OF THE MONTH**  
**"Muddler Minnow"**



Edition: July 2022  
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**Muddler Minnow**

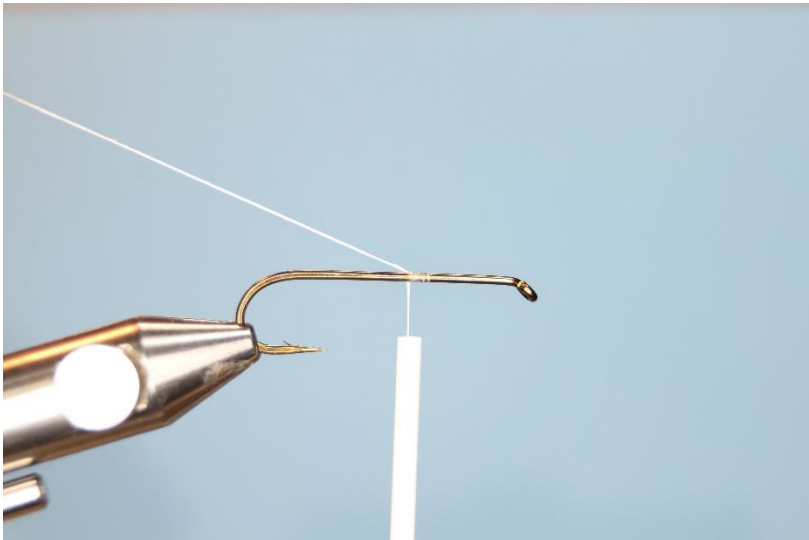
The muddler minnow is a streamer that was created to imitate a small bottom dwelling sculpin. If floated on the surface this fly could also imitate a grasshopper on the surface of the water. The spun deer hair does help it to be buoyant and makes a good disturbance in the water because of the large deer hair head.

## Materials

Hook:	3XL Hook Sizes 4 to 12
Thread:	using a white 3/0
Tail:	Slip of mottle turkey feather
Body:	Gold flat Mylar Tinsel
Rib:	Told medium oval tinsel
Underwing	Gray squirrel hair
Wing:	Mottled Turkey Feather Slips
Collar	Deer hair tips
Head	Spun deer hair



1. Place hook in your vise



2. For ease of spinning a deer hair head, leaving the first third of the hook shank bare by starting the thread at the two thirds spot of the hook and will bring the thread to the hook bend (bend is marked by the hook barb as the barb points to the bend of the hook, the reason I do not mash the barbs when doing demos).



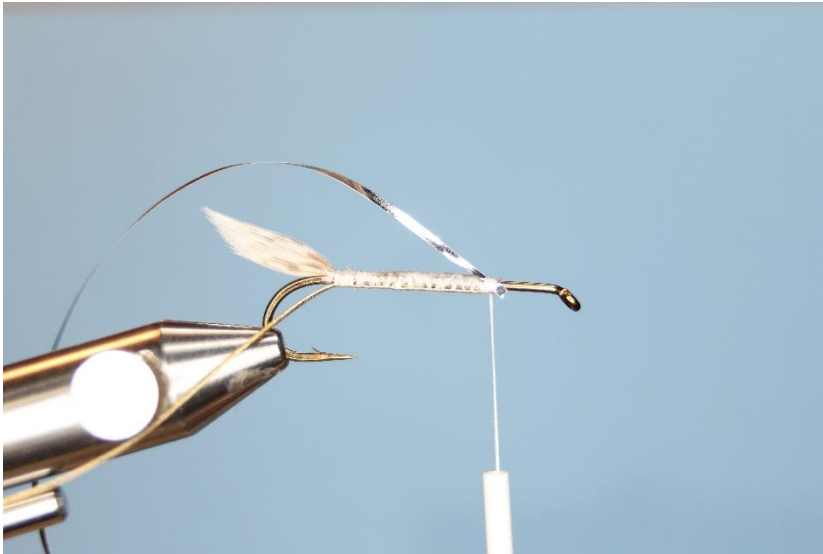
3. Take 2 wing slips of a mottled Turkey feather. A left and right slips from the wing, the slips would be as wide as the gap of the hook. Secure the tail at the bend of the hook to extend past the hook bend, tail should extend one gap width past the bend of the hook. Tip can be up or down; I like them pointing upward to help match the wing in another step.



4. if you cut the excess wing material you would create a bump by the wing when we are wrapping the body tinsel. I like to secure the excess to the shank of the hook to help make the body level.



5 Tie in the ribbing material along the shank of the hook to help keep the body from getting a lump. Secure the ribbing material underneath the hook shank and stop at the bend of the hook



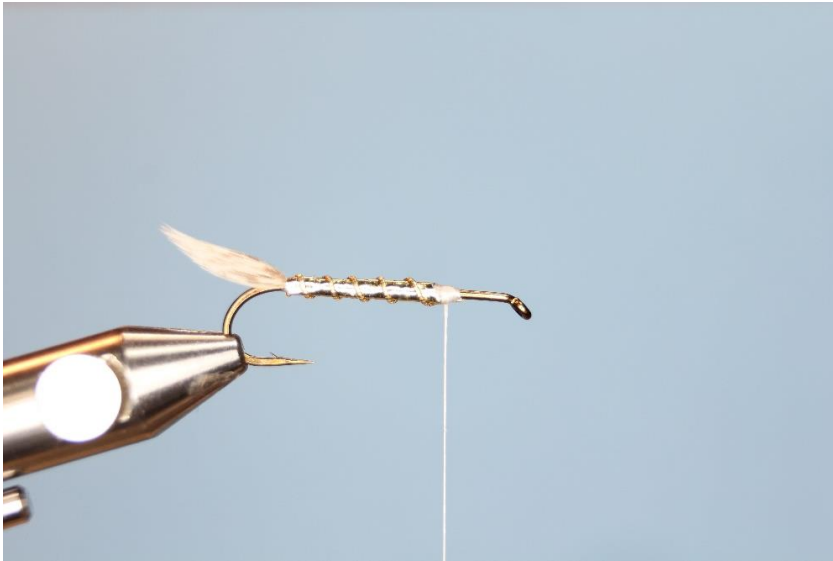
6. Tie in the tinsel at the tie in point. Most mylar tinsel is two sided with silver on one and gold on the other. The photo shows the silver side facing the tier. When the wrapping starts the gold side will show. The tinsel will be pulled down and go underneath the hook shank towards the bend of the hook and then back to the tie in point to cover any spots that are missed.



7. The Tinsel wrapped and secured at the tie in point



8. Wrap the rib in open and even spaced spirals. 5 or 6 wraps. Ending underneath the shank of the hook



9. Trim the oval tinsel. I usually add a drop of head cement over the thread wraps



10. Tie in a small bunch of grey squirrel tail hair, tips to the end of the tail or midpoint of the tail



11. Select two mottled turkey wing slips for the wing and secure them on each side of the squirrel tail. Try to have the tips match the end of the tail tips.



12, Trim the excess wing slips. I would add a drop of head cement to the wraps at this point.



13. Stack the tips of a bunch of deer hair. Tips should point to the bend of the hook. The tips should not exceed the point of the hook. Take two wraps of thread around the clump then pull and follow the deer hair keep wrapping until it stops spinning.



14. Once the hair stops spinning pack the hair with a hair packer or between your index finger and thumbnail and press the deer hair back towards the bend. Packing the hair. Then take another bunch and cut the tips off and place them above the bare spot of the hook shank and wrap the thread two times around the hair and hook shank and pull, following the hair as it spins



15. Fill the empty spots by spinning more deer hair and pack the hair tight. At the end add a few wraps behind the eye.

Whipfinish cut the thread



16. Time to trip the deer hair to shape. Using a razor blade or your scissors. Make sure you do not trim the deer hair tips for the collar.



17. You can make a big or small head while you are trimming the deer hair. Just be careful with using a razor blade. The hair will be cut faster.

Editors Notes: Comments from the editor.

Fly of the Month: Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them. 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 the Fly Tying Group at [ftg@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:ftg@flyfishersinternational.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. This is the guest tier's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

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