

FLY OF THE MONTH

The Chubby Chernobel

- Hook:** Size 8 two X long dry fly hook. (You might try a size 10 or 12 for the Sierra Hoppers)
- Thread:** 6/0 brown, tan or olive to match the colors
- Tail:** Crystal flash or Poly yarn - can be pearl, amber, white, black (eggs on stones are black)
- Body:** Fine dry fly dubbing - tan, golden stone, black, yellow to match bug.
- Body:** Tan or Black 2mm sheet foam, cut at least as wide as the hook gap. (Chubby)
- Legs:** Silli Legs - or Centipede legs - I like the pumpkin with flakes of black or yellow & black
(For the Sierra hoppers I would use red legs in the rear half - The Mexican Red Legged Hopper is very common in the SW.)
- Wings:** Two relatively long wings of Poly Pro yarn (floating yarn) can be
- Glue:** CA Super Glue - to keep everything from moving around and for durability



The Chubby Chernobyl is a Hi-Vis variation of the Chernobyl Ant that has become very popular in the West in the past few years. I bought and used my first one on the fast choppy waters of the Madison near Ennis Montana last year. The addition of the double Poly Propylene wing really makes this pattern easy to see and mend to get just the drag free drift needed on heavily fished rivers. I fished it from a moving pontoon boat at the end of the Golden stonefly hatch. One of the guides advised me that I would do better if I got out of the boat and made the better casts and drifts. "It is hard to get the proper presentation in those back eddies from a pontoon boat." Were his exact words.

The stonefly hatches are over for the season but this fly will work as a grasshopper and makes a great dry dropper set up. Hang a size 18 Zebra midge off the bend and have some fun. Here are two links with two different methods of construction:

<http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com/flybox/details.cfm?parentID=196>

<http://azwanderings.com/fly-tying-the-chubby-chernobyl/>

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Of the two construction variations above, I like to build the big fly patterns from left to right. Making the complete dubbed body and then adding legs and wings to that soft body can lead to problems with the legs pulling out. The author notes that you should make hard thread wraps at the attachment points for the legs before and after. That is the fly tying trick you should pay attention to if you choose that method for flies.

Quick instructions: Add some Super Glue to the bare hook shank and quickly make a tight thread base. Add a short tail of Krstalflash or Poly yarn. Trim at one hook gap. Cover the butt and tie down with golden fine dubbing. Cut a strip of 2 mm craft foam as wide as the hook gap or a little wider. (Chubby is okay) Measure it over the hook shank to extend $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from each end. Trim the corners to make it rounded. Hold the foam strip on top of the hook and make two soft pinch wraps of thread just above the hook barb and at the front of your dubbing. Pinch the foam at this point and pull down on the thread to tighten. Make 3 more tight wraps of thread. Add silli legs on each side. Add a nice visible bundle of Poly Pro Yarn folded over the thread and pull down.

At this point I would add a drop of Super Glue to the bottom of the thread wraps and each leg

connection. Add a sparse noodle of fine dubbing and cover the thread wraps of the legs. Do this as you pull back the double wing and while the glue is still wet. You want the poly pro wing to flow to the rear. Do not trim it yet.

Add another good heavy noodle of dubbing to the thread. Lift the foam body and wrap the noodle forward in touching turns to about the $\frac{3}{4}$ hook shank position. Pull the foam strip forward and tie down. Add legs and another wing as you did before. Add the thin noodle of dubbing to cover the connection and force the wings back. Lift the foam body and add a little dam of dubbing for the head. Make a small thread head and whip finish.

Now look at the 4 pairs of legs and trim them relatively long but equal in length. Pull up on both sets of Poly Pro Wings, comb them out with your bodkin and trim them at least 1 to 1.5 inches long. I like them at an angle to make the wing look like a sail. The wing makes this pattern special.

Grease the whole fly up with Silicon and enjoy watching it float forever in front of those big freestone rocks on the Madison and other rivers.

Lucky



Melanoplus femurrubrum—**Red Legged Grasshopper** - only about 2 inches long.
(My fishing buddy Wayne Allen always likes the scientific names - so I add them for him.)

