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The Unconventional Mop Fly

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I was introduced to this fly by Club member Richard Goddard when we were working on his October 2020 Fly of the Month (Hank's Creation). He kindly sent me a generous portion of mop chenille commenting, "You need to try the Mop Fly." The fly was created by Tim Estes of North Carolina in 1999. Tim first tied the fly out of a strand from a mop, hence the name. It soon became a "guide's fly" because it tied quickly, using only a couple materials, and was very effective as a search fly or point fly in a 2-fly rig. It's tied on jig hook so the hook point rides up. It can be weighted to your liking, but the tungsten bead on a jig hook performs the best. The body material (mop chenille) is now sold in most fly shops. The little "fingers" in a chenille microfiber wash or dust mitt sold in automotive or cleaning supply stores can be used for the body. The most popular colors for fishing are chartreuse, white, tan, and pink. You can color the white with a permanent marker of your choice. Mitt fingers won't unravel on the manufactured end; therefore, no need to melt or glue them. Match the body length to the hook and trim it to a taper if you wish. The fly imitates crane fly or caddis larva, wax worms, or just something that looks good to eat. Bon Appetit!

Recipe:

1. *Hook: Size 10 black Gamakatsu J20-B barbless jig hook or jig hook of choice. The size 10 Fulling Mill 5125 is also a nice hook.*
2. *Bead: 3.8 mm or 5/32-inch black tungsten slotted bead. A slotted bead is more user friendly, but is not required. Put the hook through the small hole on the bead and put the hook in the vise.*
3. *Lead wire: 0.020 inch. Wrap 13 – 14 turns on the hook shank and slide it up against the bead.*
4. *Thread: Chartreuse 100 to 220 denier (use a color that matches the body). Secure the thread behind the lead wire on the hook shank. Add a small drop of super glue and spread it on the wire. Overwrap the lead wire with the thread. Once done, return the thread to the rear end of the lead wire.*
5. *Body: Remove a "finger" from the mitt. Trim the cut end to the length, anywhere from 3/4 inch – 1½ inches. Put another small drop of super glue on the thread covering the lead wire. Tie down the body on top of the hook shank with a couple loose wraps. Then, wrap forward a little with a couple pinch wraps, leaving at least 1/8 inch of space behind the bead. Now, color about 3 – 4 inches of the thread black with a permanent marker.*
6. *Collar: Black ice straggle. It comes on a spool, but I've put mine on a bobbin. Different dubbings and colors can be used here if you wish. In that case, color the thread to match the collar. Tie the ice straggle in behind the bead and make 3 or 4 turns, tie off, and trim the excess. Whip finish or half hitch behind the bead.*

Note: The body can be trimmed to a taper. If you've cut the end, fuse it by melting it or by adding a drop of glue. Mop chenille that comes in a rope from a fly shop will require fusing the cut ends.