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EZ Ed Tube Fly

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Ed Shenk of Pennsylvania first introduced his "White Minnow" streamer in 1962. I started tying a modified version in the early 1980s for smallmouth bass. Later, my Dad used it for steelhead. It was our September 2020 Fly of the Month. You just can't beat a tube fly for replacing the old 4 – 6XL streamer hooks. Here is Ed Shenk's White Minnow tied on a tube. This fly is tied "in the round." The fly looks the same to the fish from any angle, which I believe is a real advantage. This fly is effective for all game fish.

If you're new to tube flies, here's a great tutorial that will help https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy0S7VfiY5w.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Size 2 – 6 Gamakatsu in a chrome finish is always good as the trailer hook.*
2. *Thread: White Semperfli Nano Silk Saltwater 100D. This is a great thread.*
3. *Tube: 2.2mm Pro Sportfisher Pro Classic Tube. Place a 2-inch-long piece on a tube fly needle in the vise. Attach the thread in the middle of the tube and lay down a thread base that is ½ inch wide. Let the thread hang about 1/16 inch from the rear end of your base wrap.*
4. *Weight: 0.20 lead wire. Attach the lead and cover the thread base with 20 – 30 wraps. I like the fly to have a heavier than neutral weight to it, and the weight distributed so that the fly remains horizontal and sinks slowly. Overwrap the wire with the thread after applying a couple drops of super glue to the wire wraps. Ramp the thread to each end of the lead wraps, making a nice taper. Move the thread to 3/8 inch from the end of the tube. Remove any excess glue with a paper towel.*
5. *Tail: White marabou. Wet a wooly bugger plume with your fingers and tie in a 2-inch tail. I also add a very sparse amount of flash using a few fibers of pearl shimmer fringe. Any flash material can be used here, but keep it sparse!*
6. *Body: White crosscut rabbit strip. The body is formed using dubbing loops as in our September 2026 Fly of the Month. See https://bruleriversportsmensclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Clipping-scaled.jpg for tips on prepping the fur for dubbing. Use a series of 3 dubbing loops beginning at the rear of the fly. Catch a strip of fur with the thread a little past the midpoint in the first loop, wrap forward, and tie off. Then, form another loop and catch another strip of fur a little closer to the butt ends in the second loop. Wrap forward and tie off. Lastly, catch some fur close to the butt ends with the last loop. This will give a natural taper to the body. The body should end up about 1¼ inches long.*
7. *Head: Whip finish by hand. Cut the thread and carefully finish with UV glue.*

Note: Trimming the body by cutting the sides off or making a more significant taper are both options.