

# The Montana Stonefly

## By Lew Oatman

Step-by-step Instructions and photos by Matt Clements

The pattern for the 2019 Mystery Fly for Cancer Tournament is the Montana Stonefly. Designed by Lew Oatman of Shushan, New York, this fly was designed to imitate large dark stonefly nymphs. Lew (Lewis Morris Oatman, Jr. 1902-1958) lived in the small town near the New York/Vermont border, along the lower Battenkill River. He is most well-known for his “exact imitation” streamer patterns, that were designed to closely match forage fish in his local waters.

We will be using:

**Hook:** Mustad 9671 hook (3x long, 1x heavy), size 10

**Weight:** Non-lead wire, size .020, 7 wraps

**Thread:** Uni-thread, Black, 8/0

**Tail:** Black Rooster Hackle Fibers

**Body:** Black Ultra-chenille, Standard Size

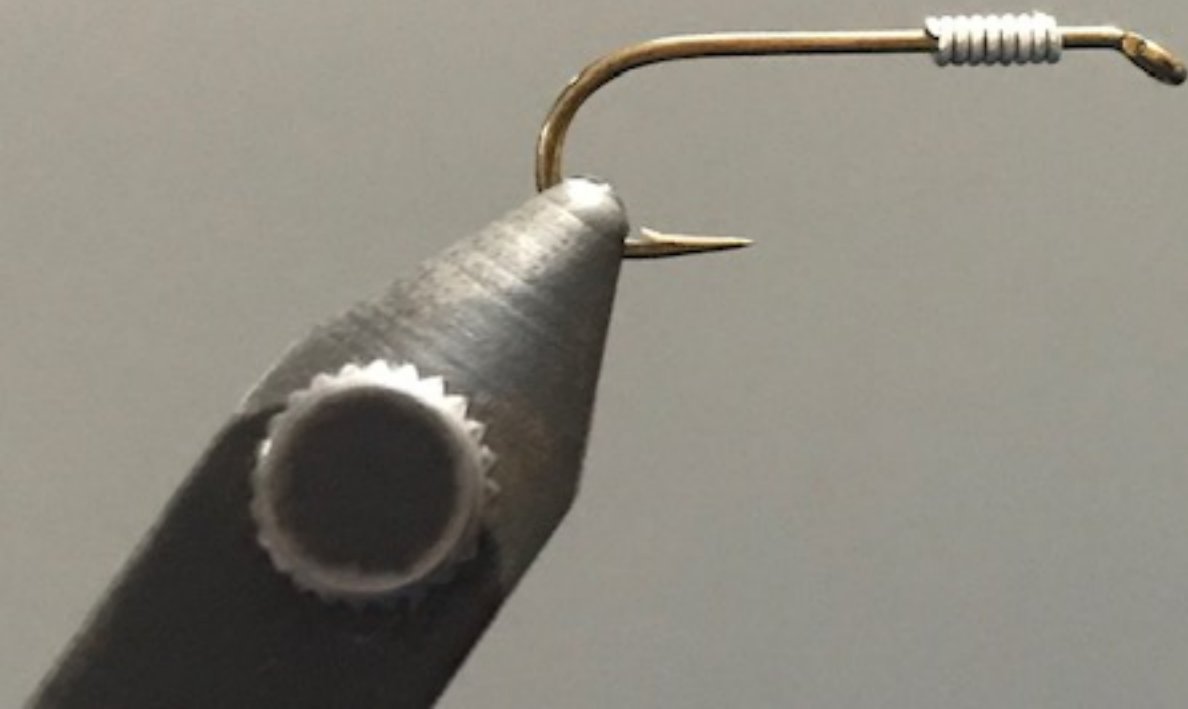
**Wing Case:** Black Ultra-Chenille, 2 strands

**Legs:** Black Rooster Hackle

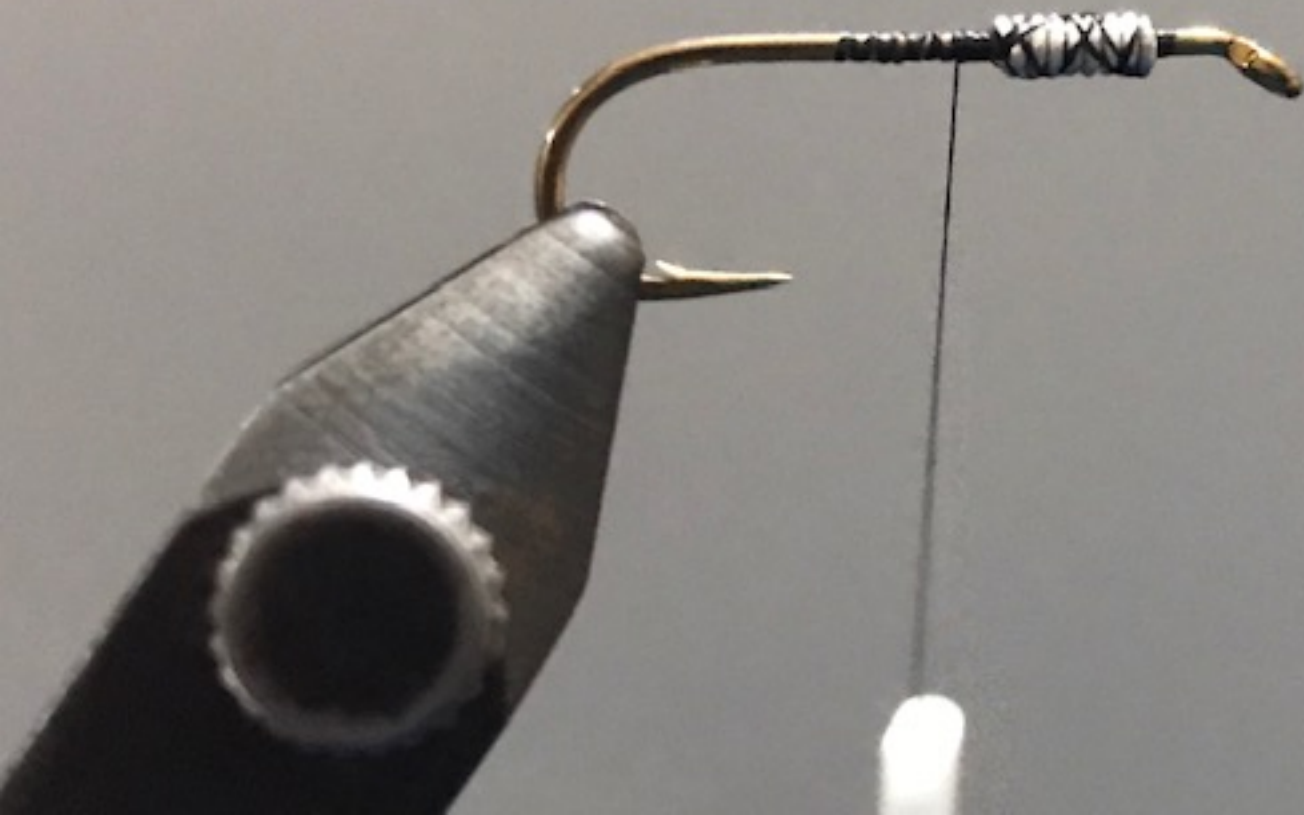
**Thorax:** Medium Chenille, Yellow



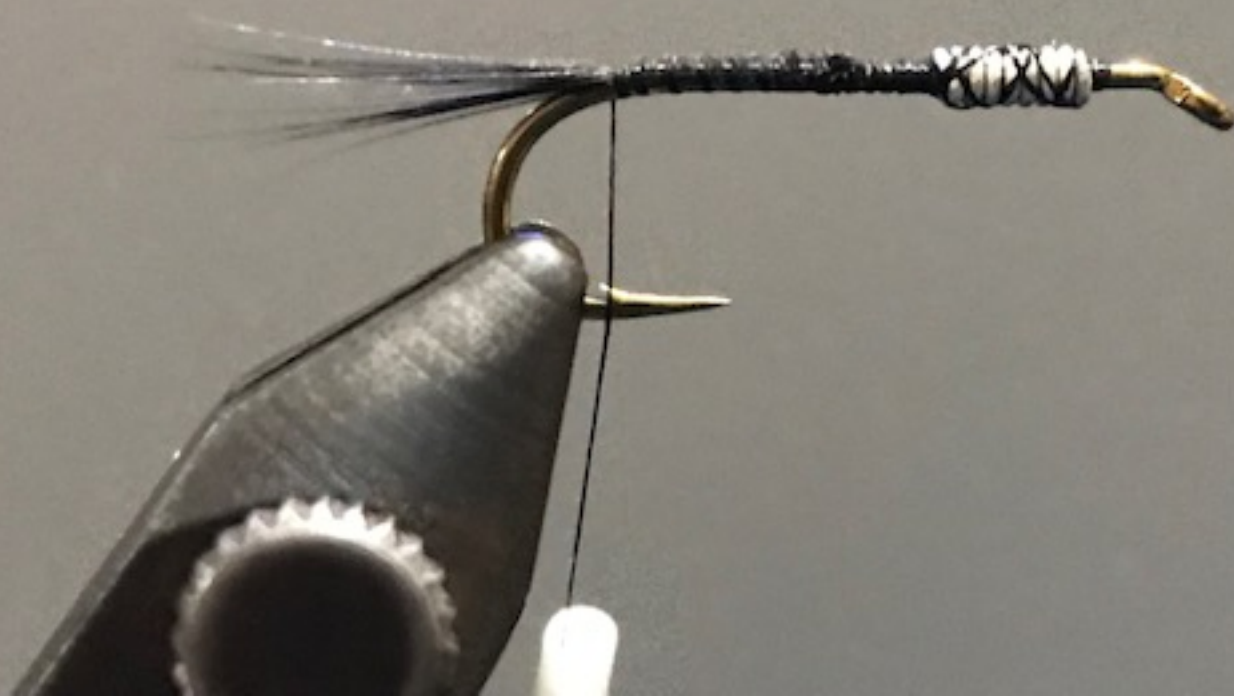
7 wraps of wire, wrap the tag around also.



Start the thread and go back and forth over the wire a few times to secure it in place. It should be just a hair more than an eye length behind the eye



Tie in about a dozen fibers from a rooster hackle (from closer to the butt than the tip, but not the fluffy, webby barbules).



Aim for a length a little more than a hook gap past the bend of the hook. Error on the side of shorter rather than longer.





Tie in a piece of Ultra Chenille (I keep it on the card, loosen what I need to work with). Tie down to the beginning of the bend of the hook.  
Wrap the chenille forward in tight touching wraps. (In this case, I got 7 wraps in.)  
Tie off the chenille, should be a small gap before the lead.  
Tie in two pieces of ultra-chenille on top of the hook. (I use one piece looped, tying in both ends, to minimize waste.)



Prep the hackle, preen the barbules out.



Peel the barbules off the top side of the feather  
(this is where your tail ought to come from.)





Snip the tip to leave a triangle to tie in.



Tie in the hackle, barbules down, on the near side of the hook, behind the lead.



Prep your chenille for tying in by stripping the end of the material from the core.



Tie in the chenille, again, on the near side of the fly, you can allow it to walk up the side, this makes getting the hackle wrapped a little easier.





Wrap the yellow chenille forward and tie off immediately in front of the lead wire, in this case three wraps.





Palmer the hackle forward. Three wraps. Tie off behind the eye.



Pull the two strands of chenille forward and tie down behind the eye.



Wrap a small head and do two whip finishes  
(avoids needing glue, and it's quicker).



Top View





Bottom View

