The Fly Tyer's Corner
Recipe by Jim Gray Photos by Jeff Hoelter

Jim's Damsel Nymph

This is my go to fly for carp, and it's been very effective for me, with hundreds of carp caught over the last few years. The fly has evolved from a very simple design using a single marabou feather and green wire, to the version I'm tying today. The addition of the vinyl rib creates a segmented body, and the mini bug legs add to the realism. I guess you could argue that the carp don't know the difference, but when I see my fly silhouetted next to a real damsel fly nymph, it gives me a lot of confidence.

Materials
Hook - Gamakatsu S10S, size 8
Thread - UTC olive 70
Eyes - medium black bead chain
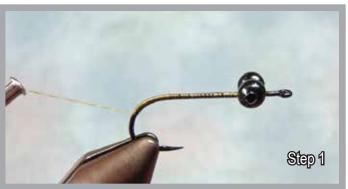Tail/under body - strung marabou blood quills olive brown
Rib - vinyl rib medium olive
Legs - mini bug legs olive
Collar - hen cape grizzly/olive
Head - olive dubbing

Step 1: Tie in a bead chain eye, leaving a small space between the bead chain and hook eye. Take the thread to the back of the hook, into the bend.

Step 1

Step 2: Create a tail by tying in the tip of a marabou feather. I like the tail to point slightly down. When you fish the fly on the bottom, it will flip over and the tail will stand up.

Step 2

Step 3: Tie in the vinyl rib, leaving it hanging off the back of the fly. Move the thread forward, just behind the eyes.

Steps 3

Step 4: Twist the marabou into a tight 'rope' and palmer it forward. It should tapper to be heavier behind the eyes. Tie it down behind the eyes and trim the excess marabou.

Step 4

Step 5: Wrap the vinyl rib forward and tie it off behind the bead chain eyes.

Step 5

Step 6: Using 2 mini legs, fold them over 2 times and tie them in so they face out to the sides of the fly, forming legs.

Step 6

Fly Tyer Cont.

Step 7: Behind the eye, tie in the tip of a hen hackle feather, wrap it around the hook and tie it off.

Step 8: Lightly dub the thread and create a head by wrapping the dubbed thread behind, through and in front of the eyes. Whip finish and put a small drop of head cement on the thread.

Step 7

Step 8