

**Fly of the Month**

**The Knotted Midge**



Hook :- Dry fly 20-18-16

Body :- Fine black tying thread, Unithread 8/0 or similar

Hackles :- Black cock

The Knotted Midge is another of those universal flies, like the Griffiths Gnat, used just about everywhere that trout feed on midges. Trout are notoriously difficult to catch when they are midging, just cruising around leaving barely a dimple as they sip them from the surface film. A well placed Knotted Midge often brings results. It is supposed to represent a mating pair and stands out from all the singles on the water .....two for the price of one, sort of thing.

Sometimes the only difficult thing about tying the Knotted Midge is finding hackle feathers small enough, but once you have them the tying is very straightforward. Lay your foundation thread from eye to above the barb and tie in the rear hackle..... four or five turns should be ample. Tie off and trim then take the thread forward to just behind the eye and tie in the front hackle. A few turns of that, tie off and whip finish.



It's a very basic and effective fly as is but some tyers like to add a band (wedding band ? ) of gold or silver tinsel halfway between the hackles.

*Alan T.*

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Afterthought :- There have been a few times when I have come across midging fish and have not been able to get them to take any fly, be it Griffiths Gnat, midges, mini caddis, or whatever. Maybe my tippet was too heavy or the fly wasn't landing in the path of a cruising fish, although midging fish seem to wander all over the place. What has worked a couple of times, when driven to desperate measures, is to tie on a big wet fly, any big wet fly, and strip it fast through the area. I think their chase instinct takes over and they either want to eat the intruder or frighten it away.

