

NEWSLETTER

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What's New with Nature's Spirit?

Hello Everyone,

The new tying season is here, and so are all of the new products to hit the market. The last newsletter touched on all of the changes and adventures we have been on here at Nature's Spirit. We are excited to start our next chapter for the 2018/2019 season. Make sure to read the last newsletter to catch up on what we have been up to.

As for this issue, we are kicking it off with one of our European vendors. It's time to sit back and take in a new realm of fly tying, realism with Hemingway's.

We are now on Facebook and Instagram.

Instagram fly of the week is by @tim_sickles

Patterns: Copper John Variant



One goal of a fly tier is to match the hatch no matter what your tying. You're trying to make your fly look as life-like as possible to trick even the pickiest of fish. This is the tying test of every fly tier. The Elk Hair Caddis, for example, is a very old dry fly pattern that is still a staple fly. Whether it's tied in a size 20 or 6, it is a perfect imitation of a caddis. The hard part is taking it to realism. This is where Hemingway's enters the lineup of fly tying materials.

Hemingway's has come out with a line of synthetic materials that brings realism to fly tying. Their punchout wings and bodies, synthetic quills, 3D body parts, and dubbing all make this possible. Each product services a different purpose to each part of the fly, reaching a different level of realism as the fly progresses on your vise.

Realism Takes A Turn

Realism is something we all strive for when tying flies, especially bugs. It doesn't matter what the fly is, the more it looks like the bug we are imitating the better. Hemingway's takes the cake with this. Their molded bodies, wings, and backs are made to be carbon copies of those bugs. Stoneflies and Mayflies being the main two.

Stoneflies are one of the most popular insects to fish. Not only because they are abundant, but they are thick in many western river systems. In many locations the hatches are almost year round, and nymphs swim year round taking a couple of years to mature. We use Stonefly Nymphs as a way to not only catch fish, but as a deep water bug. With their larger size we tend to tie them heavy, and use the weight to get smaller flies down faster. The patterns that we use are what vary the most. From super simple flies like the Pat's Stone, to more elaborate patterns such as the Koufman's Stone and Jumbo John variations. Many tiers even go as far as weaving bodies and hand knotting legs for the most realistic patterns out there. This is where fly tiers have a choice. We can make a very elaborate pattern, or we can get a realistic bug in half the time.



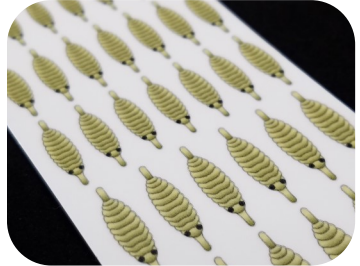
Stonefly pattern tied with the Stonefly Evolution body parts



What Hemingway's offers is a faster and simpler way to get a realistic bug. They have a line of tail and body parts that look like the real bugs we find on the rocks we turn over when fishing. These parts come in separate sections providing more versatility in your tying, with the thorax/body as one section and the tail/body as another. How they become so versatile is how you use them. You can use one section with any fly you tie, like a Copper John with a thorax/body, reverse it and use the tail/body with a Koufman's Stone style thorax. The next step is using both and having a fully synthetic pattern that looks as real as it can get.

The nice thing about these bodies is that they are soft, strong, and easy to work with. You can tie them down with a wire wrap, or use thread to secure them in place. What I like to do with mine is use matching wire or take a different color and add some ribbing dimensions. For example a brown tail/body with a orange or copper wire. This makes the segmentation more apparent, and may elicit a strike with a simple change in wire color. These body parts come in Mayfly designs as well with all of the same applications.

You can draw on them, or you can take the matching Buds and Backs to get a more realistic effect. The buds and backs are printed designs that match what the bug looks like. The buds and backs also come in Scud prints. The buds and backs are all punchouts that can be used with the realistic body parts or on their own. For instance, instead of using a stretchy shell back over a dubbed scud pattern, you can replace it with a realistic Gammarus back for a true looking scud or shrimp. Even the salt water fisherman that target sea-run trout can use these.



Now let's talk about the adult patterns of these bugs. Most of these bugs require wings.



Hemingway's punchout wings are thin translucent sheets with printed designs to match each insect in all sizes. What these add is a consistent, perfect wing to present to a fish. The detail on these wings are close to perfect and is something you can't find with natural products. However, teaming natural products with these synthetic wings only adds to the fly. For example, take the stonefly wings and use them under an elk mane hair wing for a realistic salmon fly, or fold up a pair of Mayfly wings within the hackle of an Adams.

Wrapping Synthetic Quills

Quill bodies have been around for ages, and still hold fame for good reason. They provide a very realistic looking bug with perfect segmentation. Need an example? Look up quill bodies on the internet and you will find thousands of patterns and variations. One of the most classic being the Quill Gordon. In today's world of fly tying with all of these new materials, quill bodies have not only become even more popular, but in many cases a work of art, transforming simple dry flies, emergers, and nymphs into beautiful pieces that belong on a wall instead of a fly box.

The one thing about natural quill bodies is that they are hard to recreate with a synthetic, the hardest being stripped peacock quills. Their natural light and dark edges, with unmatched coloration is the most popular for a natural quill body. Hemingway's, on the other hand, took this as a challenge. Their synthetic peacock quills come as close as you can get to the real thing, and the plus side to them is the taper. They are tapered to tie anything from a 20 all the way up to a size 4. Not only do you now have a size range, but a matching taper for larger flies, which you do not get with a natural quill. Give a size 8-4 stonefly nymphs a quill body and it looks as real as real gets with a natural taper, segmentation, and ribbing. And it doesn't stop there.



Size 8 Golden Stone tied with Yellow Synthetic Peacock Quill.



Hemingway's took their quills a step further than what any natural quill can offer, variations in material. Hemingway's not only made a natural looking quill but a Fluorescent, Transparent, and a Holographic. That's right. You can take the same patterns and, not only have natural qualities, but are also eye-popping with bright color, blinding with flash, and a few that present an optical illusion with mixed underbodies covered in a transparent quill. Then, if your adventurous enough, apply them to things other than bugs. With the size range of the Syn-

thetic Peacock Quills, you could tie a small streamer with a quill body. You get all of the same qualities of a quill body, but now it's on a small minnow. Think about it— natural coloration change, a dark rib for par marks, and a growing taper, giving you the makings of a small minnow body for lakes and rivers.



Minnow tied with a Synthetic Peacock Quill.

The other quill that Hemingway's has to offer is a Tapered Buzzer Quill. These are smaller than the peacock quills, and for good reason. Buzzers (chironomids) are one of the most popular still water insects to imitate, and are rarely larger than a size 10. They are in every corner of the world from Alaska to Argentina, all the way to Russia and Australia. This style of quill is made specifically for the imitation of these insects. The other nice thing about all of these synthetic quills is the adhesive back they all come with. These will stick in place when your tying them, it won't unwrap if you accidentally let it go. They also work well with any UV glue coating that you want to use, making for the best natural quill replacement you can ask for.

Fleshy Flies

Bug Flesh is one material by Hemingway's that has caught the eye of many tiers. Bug Flesh is a soft, chewy-like material that has one purpose, making great caddis, grub, and tapered bodies. This material is not made for long bodied flies, but is the material for shorter flies. A good example for this material is the Caddis. When wrapped, it creates evenly-spaced growing segments just like a real caddis pupa. Bug Flesh is also transparent, which allows for body manipulation. For example, in the picture shown, all three flies are tied with chartreuse Bug Flesh with a different colored material under the Bug Flesh.



Body manipulation is something that few materials are capable of doing. When we look at the picture of the 3 flies we know the Bug Flesh is the same. Now, for the underbodies on the left it is white thread, in the center it is green holographic flashabou, and on the right its purple thread. Each fly has a very distinct look that differs from the next, yet all are made with the same color of flesh. Imagine what you can do with changing the underbody of each pattern to get a different result. You can have dark and light flies with a simple thread change, or bring some light to the fly with different colors of flash, going from silver or mirage to black. Now you're going to need a new fly box just for grubs and caddis. I know I do.

Dubbing For Days

One thing that Hemingway's has along with all of their realistic materials is a large selection of dubbing. Dubbing is one of the most common and necessary materials that we use. There are hundreds of different types of dubbings to pick from these days. You can go all natural and pick any kind of animal fur, or take the synthetic road and have all kinds of flash, coarse, soft, or mixed dubbing that you can think of. You can also take any natural furs like rabbit and mix it with trilobal fibers, making the best of both worlds. In total, Hemingway's has 13 different dubbings and we are going to spotlight two of them— deer hair dubbing and UV dubbing.



Deer hair dubbing is what it says it is, 100% deer hair and under fur. It's the one material that we all throw away when we are done trimming our dry fly wings, or shaping bass poppers. We all look at it as left overs that we don't need any more, yet in retrospect, you could have saved it and used it on many of your bug patterns. The Deer Hair Dubbing has to be the best dubbings for caddis. You can create the entire fly with it, take gray, olive, and black and mix it together for a caddis nymph blend, spin it in a loop and wrap it for a perfect caddis shell. It looks as real as a caddis shell can get, the under fur makes for a great body base, and the stiff hair gives the appearance of debris they gather from the river bottom. Then take the dubbing in solid brown or black and wrap it for a head. The stiff hair then look likes legs that the caddis crawls around with. Also with



Caddis with a deer hair dubbing head, and caddis punch out wings.

it being deer hair it can be utilized in dry flies for both bodies and heads. Talk about a multi-purpose dubbing.

The second spotlight dubbing from Hemingway's is their UV Dubbing. This is a blend of long synthetic fibers and fine UV flash fibers that comes in 12 colors that begs to be blended. Although being 100% synthetic it has a very natural feeling, soft texture to it. Being a long fiber dubbing allows you to stack it for tying flies other than bugs, and it also works well for a tail fiber. The shrimp in the picture here is tied with only UV dubbing in light orange, Foil Back, orange wire, and gold bead chain. The body, tail, and throat are all tied out of the UV dubbing. With fiber lengths averaging 2.5 inches long, the flies you can tie have a fairly large size range. Salt fisherman are going to fall in love with this UV dubbing.



One added bonus to Hemingway's dubbing selection is that 6 of them come in dubbing brushes. Each brush comes in every color that the dubbing is available in. AND every dubbing style has a dispenser which makes a great item for someone just starting to experiment with dubbings—giving a larger selection of colors, cool storage box, and saving a little money in the process.



Hemingway's truly has come into the market with a strong presence in realistic materials, many of which we did not have time or space to get mention in this newsletter. If you want to check out all of the products from Hemingway's we offer as their USA distributor, check out our website at www.naturesspiritflytying.net. Scroll down to the Hemingway's page and go to town with all of the different categories listed, from their specially packed hooks, all of their realistic bodies and wings, dubbings, threads, tackle, and more.