

### The Stimulator Fly Pattern—By Jim Jenkin

Hook: 200 R Dry Fly Hook – sizes 10 to 16  
Thread: Orange  
Tail: Light Elk Hair  
Body: Yellow Dubbing  
Body Hackle: Grizzly  
Wing: Light Elk Hair  
Head: Orange Rusty Dubbing  
Collar: Brown Hackle



#### **Tying the Stimulator:**

This fly can be tied in a number of variations but this version is one of the originals in terms of color combinations. Begin by laying down a base of thread. Tie in a clump of Elk Hair hackle tips for the tail (a hair stacker can help you align the fibers). Next tie in the grizzly hackle and then dub with yellow dubbing approximately 2/3 of the hook shank. Palmer the grizzly hackle over the yellow dubbing. Next tie in a clump of stacked elk hair for the wing. After securing this tie in the brown hackle and then dub forward to eye with the Orange Rusty Dubbing, after which you can palmer the Brown Hackle forward to behind the eye, build up a thread head, whip finish and add some head cement.

This design can be modified in a number of ways, including color and wing material. A common variation is the “woodchuck stimulator” where woodchuck fibers are used for the tail and wing, giving it a darker color to imitate other insects including darker species of Caddis. You could also use Deer Body Hair.

#### **Fishing the Stimulator:**

This fly is extremely versatile and a good addition to your fly box in a number of sizes. Personally, I carry a good number of size 14 for fishing UP streams. This fly is also good for other species from Blue Gills to Small Mouth, when fished in various sizes. When fishing it, give it a coat coating of flotant to keep it dry and buoyant.

The design of this fly allows for it to be fished in many ways. It can be cast upstream and fished as a traditional dry fly on a dead drift, but this is only the beginning. Another strategy is to fish it upstream and to one side, let it drift to a downstream position, give it a tug pulling it under water, and often fish will strike during this action. With the heavy hackle, a few false casts and the fly is dry and floating again for a repeat performance.

A new technique which a fishing partner just discovered recently on some UP streams (Thanks Don) is to cast it directly downstream in the riffles and then lift the rod tip making it skitter back up stream. This proved to be a very effective technique and imitating the behavior of many caddis flies. The Brookies were coming out of the water after it, even when little else was happening.

If you have not added this fly to your collection, you need to seriously think about it. It has produced results for me here in the home waters of the UP as well as out west and in the Smoky Mountains, making a truly versatile fly.