



Zelon Musk Midge

Hook: Standard dry-fly hook (like a Dai-Riki #320), size 24

Thread: Black, 16/0 Veevus

Wing/Tail: White Improved Micro Zelon

Body: Tying thread

Adhesive: UV-cure resin

Thorax: Natural muskrat-fur dubbing, guard hairs removed

Tying Instructions:

1. Start your thread on the hook shank leaving an eye-length space behind the eye. Take a few wraps rearward to secure.
2. Isolate one of the clumps of Zelon strands from the hank and snip it free. Fold about an inch of one end over to form a small loop. The loop should be approximately as long as the whole hook. Place the loop on top of the hook shank and take a couple of thread wraps to secure it. Try to keep the loop oriented on top of the shank.
3. Pull the long part of the clump up to vertical and snip it off close with your scissors. Continue taking thread wraps to bind the Zelon to the top of hook all the way back to the start of the bend. Then take wraps forward to cover up the Zelon and build a slightly tapered body on the fly. Keep taking wraps and pulling the wing back until you're just to the initial tie in point. Then take a few wraps in front of the wing. Snip the tail off at this point so it is about a hook gap in length.
4. To keep the wing both vertical and flared side-to-side, use a very small drop of UV resin and apply it to the base of the wing. Pull the wing back, apply the resin, and give it a shot of UV light. This step isn't completely necessary, but it helps keep the wing from angling forward while tying. With the resin cured, pull the wing up to vertical and kind of spread it out from side to side like the wing of a comparadun.
5. Take a tiny pinch of muskrat fur and pull out any guard hairs. Build a slender dubbing noodle on your tying thread that is only about an inch long. Then start taking wraps with the dubbing noodle behind the wing and then in front to keep it propped up. Ideally, the dubbing should end behind the hook eye.

6. To trim the wing to length, pinch it and then snip off just the very top of the fibers. This should open the loop. Keep trimming and checking until you have a wing about a hook shank in length. Give the fibers a little preen to bring them out into a fan shape.

Notes:

The Zelon Musk Midge uses just two materials, and it doesn't require any fussy steps to make you curse your fat fingers. In the video below Tim Flagler walks you through the four easy steps required to create a great-looking, visible midge in size 24.

Tightline Productions – Zelon Musk Midge

<https://vimeo.com/246084584>

If your local fly shop doesn't carry Micro Zelon, you can find it in numerous colors at the Blue Ribbon Fly Shop in West Yellowstone, MT.

Blue Ribbon Flies

305 Canyon Street

West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

<http://www.blue-ribbon-flies.com/>

Improved Micro Zelon

http://www.blue-ribbon-flies.com/shop/improved_micro_zelon/