

## A Solid Fast Water Fly

# Amy's Ant

By Todd A. Schotts

For the December Fly I am bringing another famous Hopper pattern to my readership; it is legendary and very successful. In the past I have already brought to you "Dave's Hopper" and the "Pink Pookie," but this month I am bringing "Amy's Ant."

This effective pattern is brought to you by the Western fly tying and guiding legend, Jack Dennis. Jack Dennis began his career in this sport began when he was at the age of 12 years old, when he sold his first flies; then 2 years later he started his guiding career when he was asked to take someone fishing. He opened his first shop in Jackson, Wyoming when he was just 19 years old. A few years back, Jack merged his famed shop (Jack Dennis Sports); with High Country Flies in Jackson to create a new mega shop "JD High Country Outfitters." On top of owning his shop, tying flies and guiding, his books *Western Trout Fly Tying Manual*, Volumes I and II have sold over 300,000 copies, and his newest book *Tying Flies with Jack Dennis and Friends* is another best seller. To top all this off, he has also produced over 22 fly fishing videos that are some of the most entertaining and instructional videos on the market. Jack also appeared on various fly fishing shows and co-hosted the series *Fly Fish on the Outdoor Life Network*.

The fly that is "Amy's Ant" was brought to us back in the 1990's and is named after Jack's daughter. This foam fly from Jack Dennis could be considered a variation from the famed Chernobyl Ant. This resilient fly combines Elk Hair Wing, under body of sparkles with flash chenille, saddle hackle (clipped close to body), two colors of foam,

and round rubber legs. With this mixture of mishmash materials, it has become a favorite fly of many Guides, and the residents that inhabit the waters. Like any flies that have that mixture of materials, it can become a bit complicated to tie. The main issues tying this fly are usually with keeping its proportions and trying to tie all the material in on the hook without material getting in the way. To help avoid this, once you get the materials with foam tied on the hook (at the bend of the hook), hold back the foam with a piece of mono, rubber band or extra piece of lead, which will make it easier to tie in the chenille and hackle. I have found from tying this pattern, it is best to tie about a dozen of it when planning to spin those bobbins. The reason is, the first two or three flies are usually out of proportion, but after that, everything starts to fall into place. If you are wondering if you can swap out the round rubber legs with silicone legs, you can, but the silicone legs are not as long-lasting. And don't forget to try different foam color combinations like olive/green or something with red.

Amy's Ant became popular back in 1999 when Joe Bressler scored over 700 points in the famed Jackson Hole One Fly Contest, on the pro circuit. The funny catch to the whole thing, was Joe found the fly on floor of his guide vehicle. To top it off, he used the same fly the following year and landed over 100 fish with it.

When fishing this pattern, it works great alone on top, but it is big enough to be the hopper in the "hopper & dropper" fly system. When fishing this alone (without a dropper), try twitching the fly on the surface, this will usually cause huge explosions. If you are fishing inland lakes, try using this pattern, as it will have symptoms of many tight lines and great times. If you are heading out west to fish, this is a great pattern to fish the Giant Salmonfly Hatch. However you fish this mishmash-monster of a hopper, hopefully you will have plenty of tight lines. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



**HOOK:** Mustad 9672 size 6-12

**THREAD:** Tan 6/0

**UNDER FOAM:** Tan 2mm

**TOP FOAM:** Brown 2mm

**BODY:** Lt. brown ice chenille

**HACKLE:** Brown saddle

**UNDERWING:** Back krystal flash

**UPPER WING:** Elk body hair

**FRONT BODY:** Peacock black  
dazzle dubbing

**LEGS:** Black round rubber legs

