

TWITCH TIME!!!

By Todd A. Schotts

With the wrap up for the year of the “Featured Tyer” program with the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, I would like to take time to thank everyone that decided to be under the cameras and demonstrating a fly of their choice. It does mean a lot to everyone in the club that we have individuals that are able to do this, and willing to. A HUGE SHOUT OUT to all those tiers. A job well done!!

BACKGROUND: I decided to step up to the vise and will finish out the clubs “Featured Tyer” program for the 2022/2023 season. After careful consideration, and permission from Gary Clark to tie his fly pattern in demonstration, I will be tying “Clark’s Twitch Minnow.” Gary Clark designed this after the famous “Twitch Minnow Lure” in spin casting. The Twitch Minnow Lure was designed to replicate an injured Minnow in both appearance and action. For the fly version, Gary embodied those same characteristics. I can attest it really works, plus the fly is simple to tie - which I very much appreciate.

BODY: Fly lengths are roughly of 3 ¾” to about 5 ¼” depending on the species of minnows being replicated. Remember minnows have slender bodies with big eyes, so take that into consideration when tying any minnow pattern. This fly pattern is tied long, contrary to most instruction. Being tied long, this fly does not get foul hooked - an amazing feat.

The base color of this fly is basically white & Pearl, which is a deadly combo. With some adjustments you can create an Emerald Shiner, Golden Shiner, or really any type of minnow that you are trying to mimic in the watershed you are fishing.

EYES: One option I like is adding stick-on eyes. Gary ties them without eyes. If eyes are used, do not squeeze them on next to the hook shank because it will change the appearance and movement of the fly. I like to use Gel Super Glue to attach the eyes.

HEAD: When finishing off the head with half hitches, Gary secures the materials by adding Super Glue to the head of the fly. I use UV resin particularly if I am using eyes as it helps to make a nice hard head. By securing the head with adhesive, this will increase durability. Gary said, his grandson caught over 100 fish on this pattern in one day.

FISHING: There are various ways to fishing this fly pattern. I like to twitch it, or short strips then twitch it. In my experience, twitching the fly pattern works the best.

This fly sits just under the water’s surface film of the water. It is great to see the take on this fly from the Bass. Can we say explosion of water? For sure!!

If you are interested in getting this down further in the water column, use a heavier bead or just put a small split shot on your line. This aids the fly to drop further down the water column.

I tie this fly on by using the “Rapala Knot” which is a loop connection. This gives the fly more movement in the water.

We will tie this in two styles, the “White/Pearl” and the “Emerald Shiner.” If you are attending the Annual MFFC Smallmouth Outing, both versions should grace your fly boxes. The Emerald Shiner is one of Smallmouth’s main food sources.

I hope to see you at the next meeting slinging bobbins with me as we tie a simple but extremely effective fly pattern. Thank you to Gary Clark for this opportunity!!



Hook: 3399 Mustad or Equivalent sizes 4 & 6

Thread: White 140 Denier or 6/0

Bead: Gold 7/64 (bead size is for 12 & 14 hooks)

Tail: Strung Marabou White & Pearl Krystal Flash or Pearl Lateral Line

Body: Pearl Estaz

Backing/Wing: Peal Flashabou (for white/pearl) and Kelly Green Flashabou (for Emerald Shiner)

Fastening: Zap A Gap or UV Glue.

Eyes: Stick on eyes (optional)