

## **Conehead 20-Incher**

Early June finds Golden Stoneflies and other medium-sized stoneflies either emerging or preparing to on most Montana trout rivers. Many rivers are still in the midst of runoff at this time, which makes a large, flashy, heavy, visible pattern a good bet. The Conehead 20-Incher meets all of these criteria and is durable to boot.

### How to Fish

The Conehead 20-Incher should be fished tight to the bottom on a dead drift. Early in the summer it is most effective tight to the banks, since stoneflies emerge by crawling onto the shore, unlike most mayflies and caddisflies. Later in the summer, try it in smaller sizes as a general searching nymph in deeper water. In fall, large sizes make good choices for irritating fall-run browns, especially since they sink quickly.

### Tying Notes

The Conehead 20-Incher's rib is unusual. Secure two strands of tan Uni-Floss or even strands from a divided length of embroidery floss at the rear of the fly. Wind the peacock forward and secure it, then twist the two strands of yarn into a rope and spiral forward. Some versions of the fly call for gold tinsel instead of the floss; tie whichever version you prefer.

A UV-set epoxy like UV Knot Sense can substitute for the 5-minute epoxy, though this makes the fly less durable. Regardless of which epoxy you use, it is best to apply it to an entire batch of flies at once.

### Conehead 20-Incher Pattern

Hook: 2XL-3XL nymph hook, #6-12

Cone: gold brass or tungsten

Weight: .015-.025 lead wire, optional.

Thread: 6/0 brown.

Tail: brown goose biots tied "vee" style.

Abdomen: peacock herl. Wrap a yarn underbody if no weight is used. This creates a natural body taper.

Rib: two strands of tan floss twisted together, or oval gold tinsel.

Thorax: hare's ear or similar dubbing.

Wingcase: two strands of pearl Flashabou over turkey tail quill, coated with 5-minute epoxy.

Legs: tan barred Centipede Legs.

