

## **Matt's Creep**

Matt's Creep was designed by tier Matt Minch, of Gardiner, Montana, as a refinement of the popular Bitch Creek stonefly nymph. While the Bitch Creek is a good all-around stonefly, Matt wanted to emphasize the elements of the pattern that make it appealing to fall-run brown trout. He increased the number of rubber legs, switched from standard chenille to sparkle chenille, and divided the woven body of the original to create greater contrast from front to back. After fishing the resulting fly and discovering it worked just as well after the Bitch Creek-style hackle broke off, he omitted the hackle. The resulting fly has proven itself an effective trout pattern throughout the Rockies, and it can also work for steelhead and large panfish.

### How to Fish

The Creep is most effective in the fall, when aggressive brown trout are present. With its many bright elements, the fly is quite effective in off-color water, especially since rainbow trout as well as browns are suckers for it under these conditions. The Creep is usually fished on a dead drift in turbulent flows, where its many rubber legs provide a great deal of movement, but it can also draw strikes when retrieved with a pumping action.

### Tying Challenges

The Creep is a straightforward fly to tie, which is good given how many of them you lose in the rocks. Different types and sizes of chenille give the fly widely varying silhouettes, so you should experiment to discover which brands work best for you. Also, be sure to place a drop of head cement at each tie-in point after securing the legs, to prevent them from pulling out.

### Matt's Creep Pattern

Hook: 3XL nymph, #2-8

Weight: .15-.35 tin or lead wire (optional)

Head: Copper bead

Thread: 6/0 orange

Tail: pair of medium white rubber legs

Body: 3/5 black sparkle chenille, 2/5 orange sparkle chenille

Legs: 2-3 medium white rubber legs clustered towards the front of the hook.

