

## Instructions for Tying a Traditional Zebra Midge by Don Fine

### Materials:

- **Hook** – caddis pupa, sizes 16-20 e.g. TMC 2499 or equivalent
- **Body** – black 8/0
- **Ribbing** – gold or silver ultra-wire
- **Bead head** – copper, gold or silver bead sized to the hook (use tungsten bead if available)

### Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the hook barb and insert bead onto shank of the hook.
2. Start thread shortly behind bead and begin to wrap thread toward the rear of the fly, stopping ~1/3 distance back.
3. Insert one end of a 2" section of gold or silver wire into the rear opening of the bead and make additional thread wraps over the wire toward the rear, and around the bend of the hook.
4. Leave the free (unwrapped) portion of the wire protruding to the rear of the hook. Spin the thread bobbin such that the wrapping thread broadens, rather than tightening. Begin to wrap the thread forward to the bead, then again toward the bend and return (back and forth) until a neatly tapered thread body is in place, with the bobbin hanging immediately behind the bead.
5. Counter wrap the wire around the thread body and secure with one thread wrap behind and two in front of the wire. Cut or helicopter off the excess wire. Then make additional thread wraps up against the bead and over the wire such that the wire is 'buried' under the thread wraps. Whip finish the fly with thread wraps up against the bead. Use a drop of head cement to secure the thread wraps.

### Optional steps to enhance or provide variability to the Zebra midge.

- **To provide a small 'tail' to the Zebra midge**- insert a small section of 3-4 filaments of crystal flash at the hook bend at step 2 above by wrapping the thread to the bend, tie the crystal flash in and continue to wrap the thread around the bend such that a small section of crystal flash protrudes just beyond the hook bend. Advance the thread forward to the location specified above in step 2 for insertion of the wire.
- **For either a dubbing collar or hot spot** – at the completion of step 5 above stop 1/8-1/16" behind the bead, dub the thread with collar material wrap to form a collar and secure with several thread wraps.

\*Consider making variations on the basic instructions found above, to provide versatility in the pattern to meet fishing conditions, e.g. clear vs off-color water, time of year/time of day.