
FLY OF THE MONTH

The Ray Charles

Hook:	Tiemco 2457 scud size 14-18 (or straight shank TMC 100 or 101)
Thread:	Red 8/0
Tail:	None.
Rib:	None or fine silver or gold wire.
Abdomen:	Gray, olive, tan, pink or orange ostrich herl.
Back:	Medium Pearl Mylar tinsel or 1 to 3 pearl Flashabou



This pattern imitates freshwater scud and sow bugs, often found in Western tail-water fisheries and spring creeks. Tied by Montana guide Bob Krumm, the name according to Bob, comes from the fact that even a blind person can catch a fish with this pattern. This pattern should be a winner on Hot Creek.

1. Wrap shank with thread.
2. Tie in Mylar tinsel below the bend.
3. Tie in 2 ostrich herls slightly ahead of tinsel and wrap forward, tie off at head and cut.
4. Pull Mylar over back and secure at head.
5. Whip finish.
6. Add two coats of head cement to thread head.

This is a classic "guide fly" - easy to tie and it catches lots of fish. Bob suggest using 2457 scud hooks rather than the thinner wire 2487 if you want to catch big fish.

Lucky notes: The Ray Charles in size 14 or 16 was a good pattern for Bob Pharoah on the Big Horn last summer. You can rib it or just keep it simple. Scuds are only curved when they are in your hand or dead. The pattern can be tied on a straight hook to represent a swimming scud, an isopod or fairy shrimp. When tied in white or light gray they are taken as Mysids in tail waters. Scuds make up a large part of a trout diet on weedy cold lakes like Heenan. If you run out of nice large ostrich herl try loop dubbing some of the fluff at the base of hen hackle or partridge.

