**Kaufmann Golden Stone, Rubber Legs**

Hook: 5263BL or 300, sizes 8-14, weighted and flattened

Thread: Brown

Antennae: Brown turkey biot, V style

Tail: Same as antennae, V style

Rib: Amber Swannundaze (V-Rib on sizes 8, 10, or smaller)

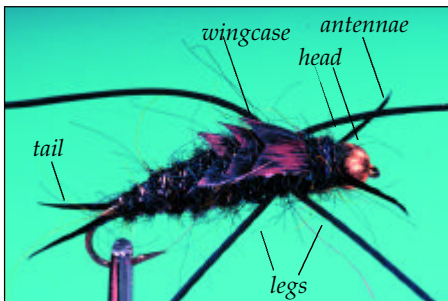
Abdomen: Blend of 60% angora goat (gold, amber, rust, blue, orange) and 40% golden brown rabbit or Haretron

Wingcase: Three separate sections of turkey, coated with Flexament, clipped to shape before tying in place

Legs: Tan, white, black, or brown rubber

Thorax: Same as abdomen

Head: Same as abdomen



Tied by Urupiqua Feather Merchants

Kaufmann Black Stone, Bead-Head Rubber Legs

Hook: 5263BL, sizes 4-14, weighted

Thread: Black

Antennae: Black turkey biot, V style

Head: Gold, brass, fluorescent, or black bead, appropriate size

Tail: Black turkey biot, V style

Rib: Transparent black Swannundaze (V-Rib on sizes 8, 10, or smaller)

Abdomen: Mixture of 60% angora goat (black, purple, claret, red, amber, fiery brown, blue, hot orange) and 40% black Haretron

Wingcase: Three separate sections of turkey, coated with Flexament, clipped to shape before tying in place

Legs: Black round rubber, 2 pair, tied in after first and second wingcases

Thorax: Same as abdomen

Head: Same as abdomen; double head that is immediately behind the bead "head"

Notes: Tie any size or color.

Chapter 36

Kaufmann Golden Stone, Rubber Legs



Stoneflies (order Plecoptera) thrive under bottom rubble (hence their name) in cold, well-oxygenated streams but are also found in slower waters. They rarely survive in lakes except at inlet and outlet areas. They provide fish with many high-energy meals, and imitations provide anglers with excellent action almost all season but especially just before and during a hatch.

Nymphs usually crawl out onto waterside vegetation to transform (hatch) into winged adults. This fact alerts anglers that imitations should usually be fished dead drift or crawled along the bottom. Imitations should be weighted accordingly. Stoneflies have an incomplete metamorphosis consisting of aquatic egg, aquatic nymph, and air-breathing adult. (There is no transitional pupal stage between nymph and winged adult.) Common identifying features include:

1. The abdomen has 10 segments (although only nine are easily discernible). Segments are evenly proportioned and cylindrical but somewhat flattened in shape. Two separated stiff tails extend from the last segment.
2. The thorax has three sections with one pair of legs located at each segment. Most species have short fuzzy gill filaments located at the base of the legs on the underside of the thorax. Two well-developed wingcases are located on top of the second and third thoracic segments. These extend slightly back over the top and side of the abdomen, covering the 10th segment. When viewed from the top, this creates a 50-50 proportion between thorax and abdomen.
3. The head is broad, somewhat flattened, with two well-defined eyes and long antennae.

Colors are mostly subdued browns, olives, tans, golds, and black, but multihued mottling is common. Overall length ranges up to 2¹/₂ inches (*Pteronarcys*), but most species are between ³/₈ and 1³/₈ inches long, requiring hook sizes 6 to 12.

Many Northwest and Western anglers eagerly await the hatch of big golden stones, *Acroncuria pacifica* and *A. californica*. This is usually the first big hatch of early summer and kicks off the season with a bang. The big goldens often hatch simultaneously with giant stoneflies, *Pteronarcys californica*, erroneously referred to as "salmonflies."



Nymph anglers, however, usually drift big imitations on the bottom and experience excellent fishing weeks, even months, in advance of the hatch. Most species have a two- to three-year life cycle, so large, nearly mature nymphs are available most of the year, and fish are usually on the lookout for them.

The best nymph fishing begins two to three weeks prior to the hatch when nymphs are positioning themselves close to shorelines and during the first week of the hatch when nymphs exit the water. During this time fish gorge on these big nymphs, sometimes to the exclusion of most other food sources. Golden stones usually begin hatching mid-May to early June and, depending on the location, can be found hatching through August. Oregon's Metolius River and some Yellowstone-area streams have an excellent midsummer hatch. Early summer is an exciting time of extremes in the mountain west. The snowpack is dwindling, rivers are full, and the weather plays tug-of-war between spring and summer. Thousands of big stoneflies may dot the sky or cover lush streamside vegetation, causing fish to abandon their usual caution.

Steelhead anglers also find good action on stonefly nymphs. Jim Black lives on the banks of Oregon's North Umpqua River and has perfected the technique. No one knowingly fishes behind him and expects a hookup! His technique is simple—get 'em deep and keep 'em deep.

Anglers often come into our Tigard, Oregon, store and complain that they fished stonefly nymphs on the Deschutes River for two days and never hooked a fish. The first question we ask is, "How many flies did you lose?" The usual reply is, "None." *If you are not consistently snagging the bottom and periodically losing flies, you are not fishing them correctly!*

A floating line and standard-length leader might be okay, but often a sinking line and two- to four-foot leader are best. Anglers sometimes need additional split shot, but I prefer extra wire or a bead head (perhaps tungsten) as a first option to add additional weight.

The Kaufmann Stone can be adapted to represent any stonefly nymph. Just alter the size and color. For the American West I like black in sizes 6 to 14 and gold in sizes 8 to 10. Tan, brown, and olive in size 8-14 are also useful. Olive is an excellent color, especially in Patagonia and New Zealand; it also doubles for *pancora*, green drake, and dragonfly nymphs. The rubber legs and bead head combination are favored by fish and anglers. I fish a lot of "mini" stones tied on sizes 8, 10, 12, and 14 model 5262 or 5263BL hooks.

This pattern looks complicated but is actually easy to tie. It just takes time, and tyers must pay close attention to proportions. It is easy to run out of hook before the thorax is completed. Look at the photos closely. You will notice that the first wingcase is tied in at about the mid-point on the hook. When you blend the abdomen dubbing, remember to mix about 50 percent Haretron, which is softer than angora goat, to make dubbing easier. Do not over dub. Pull out the excess. The Swannundaze rib must be wrapped *tightly*. To insure a tight rib, pre-stretch it before tying. Remember that stonefly nymphs are best fished *on the bottom*, even *between the rocks*. Don't be bashful about using lots of large diameter wire (.045). When smashed flat, it helps portray a broad, flattened abdomen and thorax.

This pattern familiarizes us with turkey biot tails and antennae, a triple lacquered-turkey wingcase, and coarse dubbing. When tying larger flies, heavier dubbing is needed. Heavy dubbing is difficult to dub tightly. Don't worry about it. The Swannundaze or V-Rib secures it in place, and any excess at the thorax can be picked out to simulate legs.



Tied by Umpqua Feather Merchants

Olive may be the most versatile color—stones, dragons, pancora, even green drakes.



When stonefly nymphs crawl from the water to hatch, it is a free-for-all for trout.



Scott O'Keefe

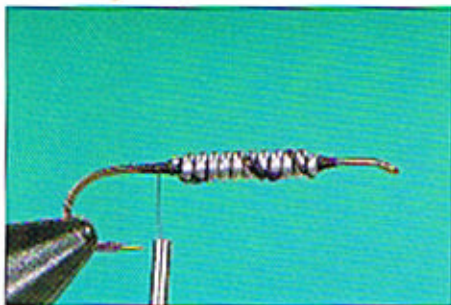
Stonefly water! Whitehorse Rapids, Deschutes River, Oregon.



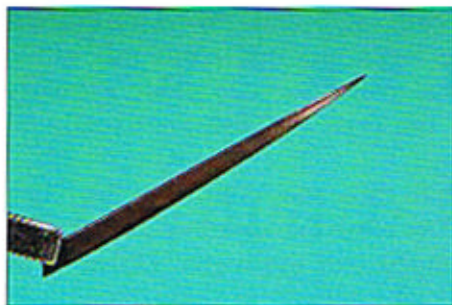
Jim Black covering prime stonefly nymph and steelhead water, North Umpqua River, Oregon.



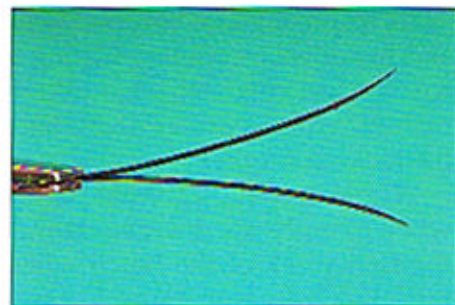
A typical North Umpqua River steelhead that grabbed a stone nymph.



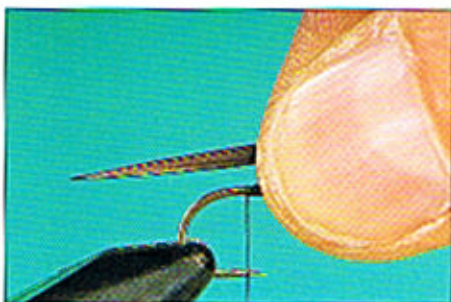
1. Cover the hook shank with thread. Wrap wire in place and secure with thread. When tying on a large hook with extra heavy wire, it does not hurt to use a drop of Zap-A-Gap.



2. This is a photo of a single biot quill. Notice the curve of the feather. Biot quills are stiff and easy to work with.



3. Two biot quills, forming a V. These will form the tail. Another pair is used for the antennae.



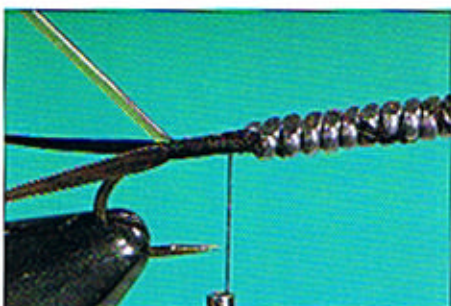
4. Grasp the matched V with your right hand and position the quills the desired distance (length of the tail).



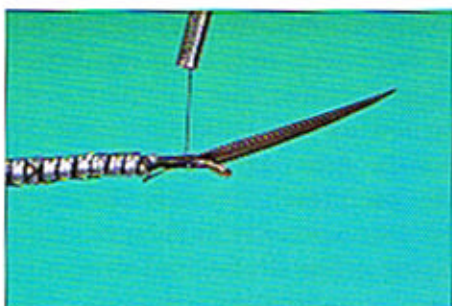
5. Once tail length is determined and fibers are positioned, change hands and slide the biot quills along each side of the hook. Pinch them in place as shown and secure them.



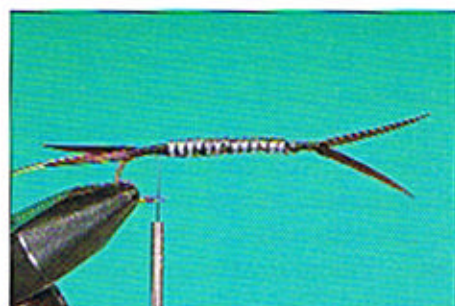
6. If you have trouble tying in both biot quills simultaneously, tie in one at a time. We are holding them in place with our right finger, measuring the length. Press your left finger against the outside of the quill and secure in place.



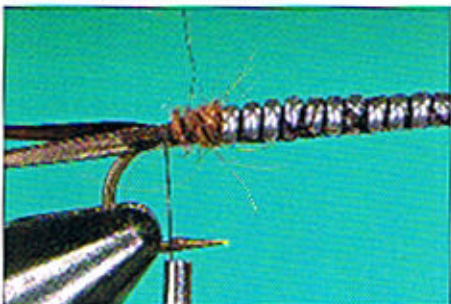
7. Tie in a section of Swannundaze along the opposite side of the hook with the round side against the hook. When wrapped clockwise, the flat side will be against the hook. Tie everything behind the wire.



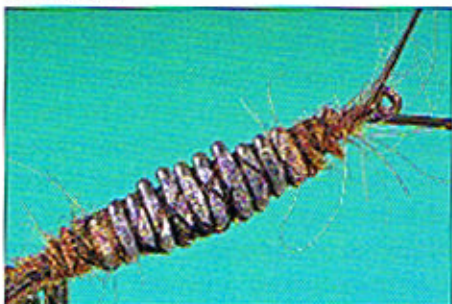
8. Wrap the thread to the front of the hook and tie on two antennae as you did the tail. Back off just a bit from the hook eye so there is space for a few turns of thread and two half hitches upon completion.



9. Completed tail and antennae. Notice that no materials have been placed on top of the wire. This is important and helps make a properly proportioned and tapered abdomen.



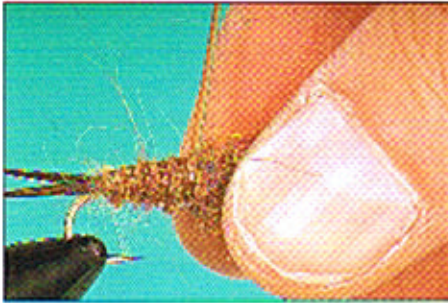
10. Install a slight amount of dubbing and taper the front and back of the wire. Use a smooth-nosed pliers to smash the wire flat across the top and bottom. This helps give the finished nymph a broad, flattened appearance.



11. Top view of properly prepared underbody.



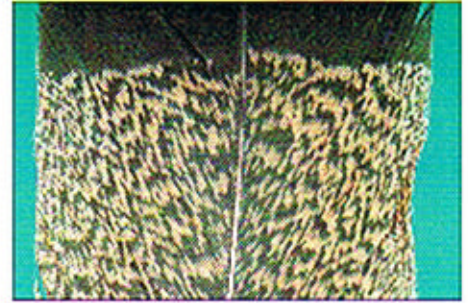
12. Dub and form the abdomen. This large hook requires that the dubbing be thick. Thick dubbing cannot easily be dubbed tightly unless a dubbing loop is used. The rib helps secure the dubbing, and the extra fibers create animation.



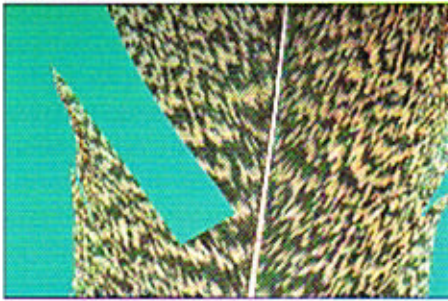
13. Make certain that the Swannundaze is ribbed **tightly**, especially at the beginning. Sweep the abdomen fibers forward before each turn of rib. Take an extra turn in the thorax area so the thread can easily secure it.



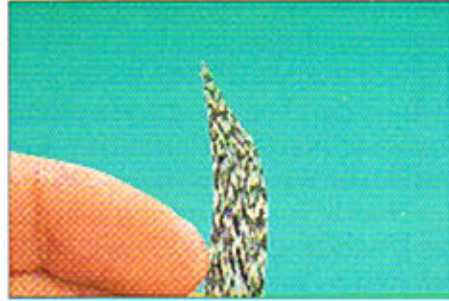
14. Finished abdomen. The thorax uses about 45 to 50 percent of the hook shank. Notice the tapered under-thorax and the position of the thread. The first wingcase is tied here.



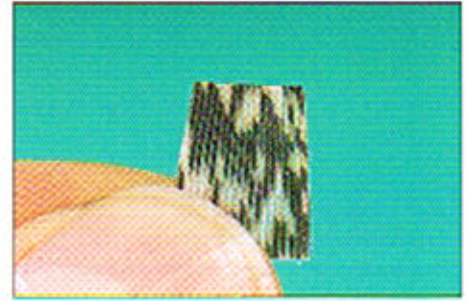
15. This turkey tail feather has been treated with vinyl cement. When you trim out the three wingcases, each one should be slightly wider. When tied on, the widest is at the front.



16. Trim a section from the turkey tail. Width is determined by the size of the nymph. A size 2 or 4 can have wingcase widths of $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{16}$, and $\frac{1}{32}$ inch, back to front. Use only the outer edge. The base is too coarse and splits easily.



17. This tip section is ready to be trimmed to shape.



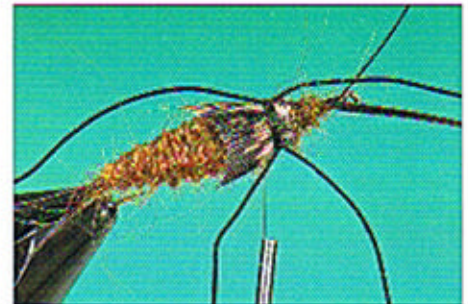
18. To begin, trim the end square. Fold it in half, lengthwise, and trim out a V notch by making a 45° cut from the outside to the fold.



19. Prepared wingcase ready to be tied in.



20. Place the feather on top of the thorax-abdomen and fold it down along the sides. By doing this it is less likely to split and is easy to tie down. Holding the feather in this position, secure it in place. The first wingcase is in position.



21. Secure a section of rubber along each side of the thorax at the exact location of the wingcase was tied in place. Install more dubbing over the thread area that is visible. Place dubbing between the legs and slightly over wingcase.



22. After the dubbing has been placed in front of the first wingcase, tie in another wingcase as shown. Add more dubbing and cover the thread and some of this second wingcase. Dubbing should be thick.



23. Tie on another wingcase as seen here. The sequence for the thorax is: tie in first wingcase; tie in rubber legs; dub more thorax; tie in second wingcase; dub more thorax; tie in third wingcase; finish dubbed head. Tie off.



24. Finished Golden Stone. The most difficult parts of this nymph are the proportions and tying in the many thorax and wingcase segments. Tyers usually run out of room. Practice a couple—you'll eventually get it right.