

# Madsen's Skunk



## Recipe

Hook: Streamer    Size: 8  
Thread: Black, 6/0  
Tail: Gray Squirrel Tail  
Legs: White Rubber, approx. 1 ½" long  
Body: Black Chenille  
Wing: Natural or White Deer Hair

*Tying Tips:* When tying in the deer hair; tie it just behind the eye. The second tie should be about 2 eye widths further back. The thread should form a single crisscross across the top. Hook sizes vary from 6-14. Deer hair may be substituted with elk hair. Today's modern version uses white calftail for the tail and may be tied with either black or yellow chenille. Some modern patterns use barred rubber legs.

*Fishing Tips:* This is a tremendous all purpose fly! It imitates hoppers, crickets, spiders and stone flies. It is also a tremendous generalized searching pattern. It may be used any time of the day, any time of the year and in all weather situations. It can be fished drag free or twitched or popped. Many Michigan fishermen will tell you that it's the most productive fly they carry. It should be used in pocket waters. In smaller sizes it is deadly for blue gill and in larger sizes it is used for bass.

*Historical Note:* The fly is usually credited to Earl Madsen of Grayling, Michigan. Earl did in fact tie the fly but he did not create it. The fly was created in the 1940s by James (Jerry) B. Webber, who was the Director of Merchandising for the J.L. Hudson Stores and the nephew of J. L. Hudson. Jerry was a member of the Rainbow Club on the Au Sable River, in Grayling. This was the first fly ever to use rubber legs. The original rubber for the legs either came from old golf balls or from old automobile seats. There are many variations of this fly. There is also a wet fly version tied by Earl Madsen as well. This fly also goes by the name of the Michigan Skunk or the Au Sable Skunk.

*Tier:* Tom Deschaine

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