

Zonked Squirrel Streamer.... Tom Regina (Original pattern by Jeff Pierce)

The Zonked Squirrel Streamer is a very easy and quick tie. The zonked squirrel can be tied in several colors such as natural, sculpin olive, brown, black, or crawdad orange, etc.

Fish this streamer as you would any streamer pattern. Cast it three quarters downstream letting it swing as you impart short quick strips. Cast three quarters upstream and mend the line to allow the fly to sink a few inches. Strip it in slow. Retrieve it fast. Strip, strip, pause, strip, etc.

Materials

Hook	Mustad 79580, 4XL, size 4
Head	Spirit River 1/4" Crosseyed Cone with stick-on eyes
Thread	Gudebrod 6/0 and 8/0 black BCS 118
Conehead cement	Loon UV Knot Sense
Tail and body	Wapsi sculpin olive pine squirrel zonkers
Head cement	Quick set epoxy



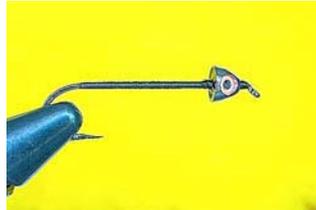
Tying Instructions



1. Slide the crosseyed cone over the tip of a round toothpick to a snug fit and apply the stick-on eyes into the eye sockets.



2. Debarb the hook and place the cone on it. Mount the hook in the vise and slide the cone back to the hook bend. Using a jam knot start the thread at the apex of the bent down eye portion of the hook shank and form a small tapered thread head in conjunction with a shallow angle "ramp" at the back of the thread head you are building. Wrap the tapered ramp rearward a distance equal to about one cone length. At the back of the apex the diameter of the thread head should be a bit greater than the inside diameter (ID) of the cone front hole so the cone fits snug and stays in place when moved forward onto the back of the thread head. To test for proper fit the cone can be slid over the working thread. Once you gain proper fit whip finish or half hitch the working thread and cut it away. Apply a drop of head cement to the thread tie off point.



3. Slide the cone forward, with the eyes properly oriented to a snug fit at the back of the thread head.



4. Place the hook vertically, cone down, in the vise. Realign the cone if necessary. Squeeze a small amount of Loon UV Knot Sense into the back of the cone. Fill the cone only about half full. *Caution: Don't overfill the cone. Leave room inside the cone to allow body materials to slide in when finishing the fly.* Note: Head cement will not afford an adequate bond of the cone to the thread ramp.



5. Use a bodkin to evenly distribute the Knot Sense around the inside of the cone.

Zonkered Squirrel Streamer.... Tom Regina (continued)



6. Reposition the cone if it has moved. With the cone properly positioned shine the Loon UV Light onto the Knot Sense for about 10 or 15 seconds to cure it and lock the cone in position.

7. Reposition the hook in the vise. Restart the thread in back of the cone and lay down a neat thread base back to the point on the hook bend that is directly over the hook barb. Cut a piece of pine squirrel zonker to a length of about 5 inches. With the fur slanting toward the back of the hook measure the tail to a length equal to the hook length. With a bodkin or the point of a scissor part the fur at the point on the hide where the tail will start. At the point on the hook bend that is directly over the hook barb secure the zonker to the top of the hook with about 5 thread wraps without trapping any fur under the thread wraps. Lift the front of the fur zonker strip out of the way and wrap the thread forward to the back of the cone. Apply a drop of head cement to the underside of the thread wraps locking the zonker to the hook.



8. In tight touching but not overlapping wraps palmer the front (body) of the zonker strip forward to the back of the conehead. With each wrap stroke the fur to the rear so as not to trap any fur under successive wraps. Using your bodkin or other such tool tuck the zonker strip evenly into and around the back of the cone. To tie off the zonker strip make several whip finish or half hitch wraps using your bodkin or other tool to guide the tie off thread wraps into the back of the cone. Cut away the thread and the tag end of the zonker. These cuts are best done using a micro tip scissor. It may be necessary to pick some of the fur fibers out from under the cone to give the Zonkered Squirrel Streamer a "finished" look. If you used enough whip finish and/or half hitch wraps it will not be necessary to cement the tie off thread wraps. If you want to cement the thread wraps, compress the fur away from the cone and apply cement with the point of your bodkin to the thread wraps inside the back of the cone.



Note: Step 9 is optional. However it does make the streamer more durable and aesthetically pleasing to the fly dresser and angler. But the fish won't care. Or so says Tom Birdwell.

9. Using 8/0 black thread build a neat tapered thread head in front of the conehead. The thread head should "climb" up the front of the cone about 1/16 to 3/32 inch. Apply a small amount of epoxy to the thread head and eyes.

