

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Hogan's S. S. Worm

Try a super fly from the Sacramento River delta.

On weekdays, Hogan Brown is a history major at the Chico campus of California State University. On weekends and holidays, Brown guides and teaches fly fishing. But by night he is an innovative West Coast fly designer and production tier for a pair of fly shops called Fish First, which are based in Chico and Albany, California.

Hogan's Super Striper Worm—or S. S. Worm for short—is a great example of his unique patterns. He developed the slinky black fly for catching striped bass in the lower Sacramento River and delta.

"All the spin fishermen on the lower Sacramento use long rubber worms," says Hogan. "I fished Delta Clousers, Whistlers, and all of the East Coast striper flies, but I never caught as many fish as the spin fishermen. So I began experimenting to come up with a fly that imitated those rubber worms."

The chassis of Hogan's S. S. Worm is two size 3/0 hooks tethered together with a piece of 25- to 100-pound-test SpiderWire fishing line, depending on conditions. Each hook is clamped in a vise (tying this fly requires two vises), and an end of the line is tied to each hook shank. Next, he ties the tail materials to the trailing hook.

To create the body, Brown ties the end of a piece of Black Crystal Chenille to the trailing hook. (It's best to work off of the card of chenille rather than clipping a long length.) He then wraps the chenille up the



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HOGAN'S S. S. WORM

Hooks: Tiemco 811S, size 3/0.

Head: Large tungsten cone.

Thread: Black 6/0.

Tail: Black holographic Flashabou and black marabou.

Body: 25- to 100-pound-test SpiderWire and black Crystal Chenille. Wrap a grizzly schlappen feather dyed purple around the middle of the body.

fishing line and ties it off on the front hook. The completed fly is nearly a foot long, but it is light enough to cast with an 8-weight rod.

Brown uses a slow retrieve when fishing an S. S. Worm built on the lighter, more flexible Fire Wire. When the fish demand a faster retrieve, he switches to a fly made with heavier, stiffer line.

Hogan Brown plans to continue his education. His goal is to earn his master's degree and credentials for teaching high school. Let's hope he also continues to find time to create additional innovative patterns.

—David Klausmeyer ♦

David Klausmeyer is the editor of SFF's companion publication, *Fly Tyer* magazine. For more information or to subscribe to *Fly Tyer*, go to www.flyfishingmagazines.com.