

The Osprey Fly Box *by Will Wright* *“Crystal Hair Minnow”*

“A great cutthroat fly for use in the river, sloughs and salt water.”

So says **Peter Chatt**, who offers this month’s pattern for those of us who spend our winter months targeting cutties once the salmon chasing hordes are a memory and before the interior lakes have opened for the season.

Over the years Peter’s had success with silver mylar bodies but didn’t like how the bodies of the flies fray and fall apart after a few fish. He’s also seen many epoxy patterns but felt they were missing something very important to a successful minnow imitation. With this fly you get a durable epoxy bodied fly with a free flowing wing for the key ingredient, movement.

Hook:	TMC 9324, Mustad 34011 Stainless.
Thread:	White, silver and hot pink.
Rib:	Pearl braid.
Body:	Flat or braided silver mylar coated with Devcon 2 Ton Epoxy.
Wing:	Mallard flank, pearl Crystal Flash.
Head:	Silver mylar braid coated with Devcon 2 Ton Epoxy.

Debarb the hook and place in vice. Use white thread to tie in the fine pearl braid rib and the silver mylar body. Move your thread up the hook and wrap the mylar forward, tie it off and remove. Spiral wrap the rib, tie it off and remove the white thread as well. Tie in the hot pink thread, wrap forward, and build up an area to represent the gills.

Mix the epoxy as per the package instructions, when you feel it is mixed enough; mix it some more concentrating on mixing in the edges. If you want you may add a dash of ultra fine glitter to the epoxy while mixing, the result will be a scale effect. Peter feels the rib gives the epoxy depth and sparkle, while it may not show up too well in the photo; it is very evident on the finished product. Apply epoxy and let dry on fly turner so the epoxy doesn’t droop.

After the epoxy hardens, put the fly back in the vice and tie in the mylar braid with your silver thread. Alternately fold the mylar forward and back, wrapping it in each time to build up the head on top of the fly as shown.



Cut the mylar and tie the mallard wing onto the head and top it off with two strands of pearl Krystal Flash folded back on itself to make a topping of four strands. Apply yellow-green stick on flies and epoxy the head to finish it off.



Peter offers a tip for working with epoxy. It's easy to waste a lot of epoxy by mixing it in too large a "batch". You shouldn't try to do any more 9-10 flies at a time; any more than that and the epoxy starts to thicken or set up and won't flow evenly when applying. When you squeeze the epoxy out of the syringe applicator, the amount should be no larger than ½ inch for each side, which is about the amount needed for 9-10 flies.

