

OSPREY FLY BOX

SA Hopper

contributed by

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Back in July 2010, I was excited at the prospect of doing some dry fly river fishing in southern Alberta and BC - new to me as I had really only fished still waters up until then. While fishing the

Oldman one evening (skunked), the motel owner in Fort McLeod revealed to Lorraine that the Crowsnest River was a world-class trout stream, but relatively unknown. He had customers come from New York and Texas on annual trips to fish the Crowsnest. Next day we stopped in at the Crowsnest Angler in Bellevue, AB, to stock up on flies. On the "recommended flies" chalkboard amongst the classic Elk Hair Caddis, BWO's, Lime Sallys, was the

SA Hopper. I reluctantly included a few different sizes (yellow foam? how untraditional!) amongst the more classic patterns before hitting the Crowsnest late morning at a beautiful pool with white water at the head. Bugs coming off all over, rainbows coming out of water for them. I went through 3 or 4 of the classic patterns, no luck for the first hour. Fish still coming out of the water, but not for my flies!. I relented and tied on a #12 SA Hopper - and was into fish on my first cast and for the next hour, fast and furious! No need for delicate presentation, I could splat the fly down in white water and get a hit immediately. Heaven. Next day, I landed Rainbows and Cutthroat with this fly on the Elk in Fernie. Since then, I've had success on central Alberta rivers; all across Southern BC and central Washington.

HISTORY... (excerpt from thedragfreedrift.blogspot.ca by Nick Sliwkanich)

The late Roman Scharabun (one of the founders of the Northern Lights Fly Fishing Club), of St. Albert, AB designed this fly and called it the SA Hopper after his home town of St. Albert. Similar in size and shape to its more famous counterpart, the Stimulator, it has a few important differences. The body is wrapped foam, and there is crystal flash under the elk hair wing. This makes it float better and seen more easily as a result. There is also a red tag on the hook bend. The SA Hopper is a good floater, and works well anywhere stoneflies or hoppers are present.

MATERIALS

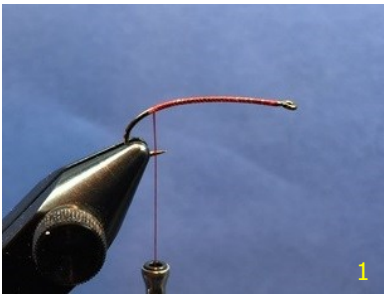


List of Materials:

Hook-	TMC 200R or equivalent, #6-14
Thread-	UTC 70 Red
Tail-	Red Hackle
Glue-	Crazy Glue
Abdomen-	2mm Yellow foam
Hackle-	Brown Cape
Rib-	A Strand of Pearl Crystal Flash or X-Fine Copper Wire
Under Wing-	4-6 Stands of Pearl Crystal Flash
Wing-	Elk Hair, Natural Grey
Thorax-	Olive Dry Fly Dubbing
Hackle-	Grizzly Cape

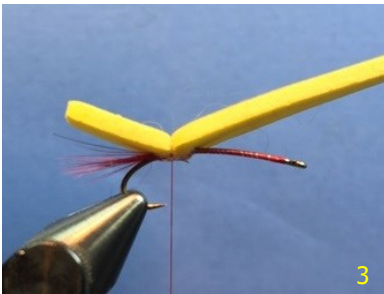
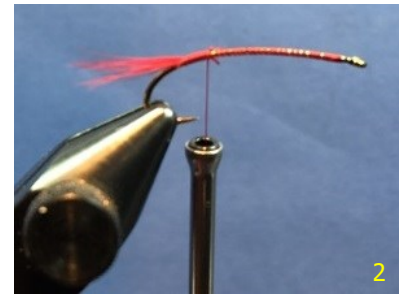


TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Run a base layer of thread down to above the bend of the de-barbed hook.

2. Tie in a short tail of Red hackle Fibres.



3. Cut the 2mm Yellow foam to 2/3rds the hook gap. Place a drop of Crazy Glue at the bend of the hook and tie in the yellow foam leaving the end just past the red hackle fibres.

4. Tie in the single strand of Crystal Flash and select a Brown hackle which should be slightly less than the hook gap. Tie in the butt with the dull side facing the tier at the hook bend.



5. Add Crazy Glue to the shank and wrap the yellow foam forward with touching turns. Stop about a 1/4" back from the hook eye. Use several thread wraps to bind down the foam, cut the excess. Trim the end of the foam to a point.

6. Wrap the brown hackle forward in 5 or 6 open spirals up to the end of the foam. Tie off and trim excess.



7. Counter wrap the Pearl Crystal Flash to strengthen the hackle up to the end of the foam. Tie off and trim excess

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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8. Tie in 4-6 strands of the Pearl Crystal Flash for the under wing, extending them just past the foam. Then select a small clump of Elk hair. Remove the under fur and stack. Tie in and extend the tips just past the crystal flash.



9. Lift the butt ends in 1/3 sections and place a couple of wraps over the butt sections up to the eye. Cut the remaining butts flush. This will help in preventing the wing from rolling around the hook.



10. Select a grizzly hackle same as the hook gap and tie by the butt with the dull side facing the tier at the end of the foam.

11. Dub the thorax with the olive dubbing from the hook eye back to the end of the foam.



12. Wrap the grizzly hackle down to the eye and back to the thread. Add a dab of head cement to the thread and whip finish behind the hackle.



Yes, In fact there is a nice rainbow on a SA Hopper at the end of Kens line. Crowsnest River 2010

Tight Lines & Good Luck!