

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## WHAT ELSE

*contributed by*

**Dave Kearney**

### *The “Professor”*



*This is an English pattern developed by John Wilson about 1830. He was a English philosophy professor at Edinburgh University.*

*The fly was originally tied with barred Mallard over a pale silk body no tail adorned it and hackle was only sometimes used and then sparingly in fiery brown (“red”) or black. The modern Professor, and differs somewhat red hackle tail ginger hackle and gold tinsel have been added.*

*A delicious little legend survives around this fly’s origins. It was told that Wilson was fishing a loch one day and found himself out of flies while trout were still rising. Seeking a temporary substitute he wrapped some buttercup around the hook shank and dried grass at the head of the fly. All secured with a bit or thread.*

*He took trout with this botanical creation and was so impressed by the experience that permanent dressings with conventional materials were tied.*

*From Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies by Trey Combs*

### **MATERIALS**



### *The “What Else” Fly*

*“Many fly patterns now accepted as standard have in fact evolved from others that pre-dated them. Some of these off-shoots were given brand new names, while others kept the original name, sometimes qualified by addition of another word. This is the story of the evolution of the professor and the development of the “wool bodied professor”.*

*In order to know of the changes that have taken place, it is necessary to know the original dressing of the standard professor as tied in BC which is: Tail - a strip of dyed red goose primary. Body - smoothly applied medium yellow floss, gold ribbed, throat hackle - medium dark brown, Wing – gray barred mallard flank, frequently at an angle of as much as 30 degrees from the body.*

*Much of the development of the “what else” or as it is more correctly known, the wool bodied professor, resulted from the experiments of well known fly-tyer and fisherman, Earl Anderson. While building an excellent and well deserved, reputation as a commercial tyer for many years, he also developed the necessary expertise enabling him to put the right bits and pieces together to produce some outstanding patterns of his own.”*

*Excerpt from “The What Else Fly” by Jack Vincent. Western Fish & Wildlife - May 1971. The entire Article was reprinted in the Osprey Newsletter, December 2009*



<b>Hook:</b>	Mustad 9672 - 3XL
<b>Thread:</b>	Black
<b>Tail:</b>	Red Wool
<b>Body:</b>	Yellow Seals Fur
<b>Rib:</b>	Gold Oval Tinsel
<b>Hackle:</b>	Brown Chicken Hackle
<b>Over Wing:</b>	Folded Barred Mallard Flank
<b>Head:</b>	Black Thread

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

*and Photography by Peter Chatt*



- De-barb the hook
- Lay down a thread base along the entire length of the hook.
- Tie in the red wool tail
- Tie in a length of gold oval tinsel for the rib.
- Dub the body with yellow seal's fur.



- Wrap the oval tinsel evenly spaced forward to the eye of the hook. (four or five wraps).
- Strip the fibres off one side of a brown hackle feather and stroke the fibres back.
- Tie in by the tip.
- Make two or three wraps of the hackle.
- Tie off and clip the excess.



*The Finished Fly*



*Pick-Yer-Pocket Intruder*

- Fold a piece of barred mallard flank and tie in.
- Clip the excess.
- Form a thread head.
- Whipfinish and add a drop of head cement.
- Clip the tail so that it does not extend beyond the end of the hook.

***Another derivative of the Professor, Kelly's Coho Killer***

In 1986 Kelly Davison developed a new fly, dubbed Kelly's Coho Killer, using new fly tying products.



Kelly was fishing Harrison Bay opposite to Kilby boat launch, the water was very low making the salmon school up in the holes in the lower part of the bay,

This made easy to watch the salmon in the shallow water and try the new material "Crystal Chenille" that had just come on the market, by tying a professor which ended up as the KCK (Kelly's Coho Killer).



Now, a very popular Coho and Cutthroat fly, the KCK is tied in several versions .... with red and purple butts, as well as different body colours.

All in all a very successful pattern.