

OSPREY FLY BOX

ATOMIC BOOBY

tied & contributed by

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For several years I carried around a few Booby flies in my boxes but never caught anything when I tried them.

Then one summer day on a lake when I was getting no action on chironomid pupae, nymphs, leeches, gomphi, or dry flies, I tied a chartreuse and white booby onto my type 7 fast sinking line, let it sink to the bottom, started stripping it in and hooked a big fish. It turned into a great day of fishing, and that scenario has been repeated several times, including at the 2021 Osprey fish out at Fawn Lake.

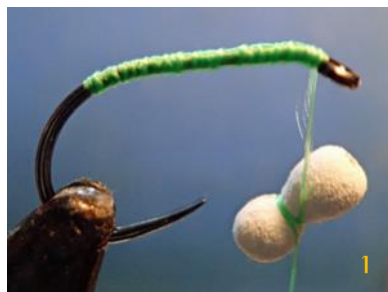
So I am presenting this very simple tie as my fly of the month contribution.



MATERIALS

- Hook:** Dohiku barbless type B. Size # 8
(Wide gape is key element in hook selection)
- Thread:** UTC 140, Fluorescent green
- Eyes:** Rainy's Boobie Round Eyes, White, small.
- Tail:** Marabou, UV white
- Body:** FNF Slush Jelly (15mm), Atomic Yellow
(or Hulk, if you can find it)

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Put a thread base on the hook. Flatten the thread by spinning counter clock wise *(to prevent cutting the foam eye)* and wrap it 2-3x around the waist of the Booby eye. If using a foam cylinder, compress the foam at the center with the thread.



2. Wrap the thread around the hook until the Booby eye rests on top of the hook. Secure it with figure 8 wraps, plus some wraps under the eye. Apply Crazy Glue to the thread wraps to secure the eyes.
3. Tie in a clump of marabou behind the eye and secure it by wrapping the thread to the tail. Pinch off the tips of the marabou, producing a short tail.



TYING INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*



4. Remove a bit of the fluff from the jelly cord and tie in the tip at the rear of the hook.
5. Wind the thread forward and then wind the jelly cord forward, making tight wraps and stroking the fibers back. Secure the jelly with the thread behind the eyes. Whip finish in front of the eyes and apply head cement. Optional: Put pupil marks on the eyes with a marker pen.



COMMENTS ON MATERIALS

The hook should be strong with a wide gape and short shank. Here I am using a Dohiku barbless Type B hook, size 10 or 8 (*available from successfulangler.com and other sites*).

Alternative hooks include Hanak 230BL, 260BL or 270BL (*from Hatch Match'r*), Fulling Mill Competition Heavy Weight (*from flymart.ca*), or Hends 333BL or 254BL (*flylifecanada.ca*).

Alternatively, large scud/caddis/pupa hooks or barbless “blob” hooks from the Troutbum (troutbum.ca) can be used.

Smaller wet fly hooks having smaller gapes can be used for less bulky body materials. There are many combinations of materials and colors that can be used for boobies producing flies ranging from garish to muted, or good imitations of insects, such as dragon fly nymphs.

For this pattern pre-formed Booby eyes were used, but I normally use cheaper eyes cut from foam cylinders (*aka booby cord*); e.g., cylinders from Superfly or Veniards.

The literature says that the ends of the cylinder should be rounded with scissors and/or by flaming to prevent twisting of the line, but I have not found that to be a problem. In fact, a “cyclops” Booby that had lost most of one eye and had more erratic motion on the strip got more attention from the trout.

In his presentation to the Ospreys, Gary Hanke described a clever method for creating round booby eyes using foam cylinders (www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV-ezIE_V6M).

HOW TO FISH BOOBIES

When fishing a Booby on a sinking fly line, the line pulls the fly down but it floats above the tip of the line (*and the bottom if the line is on the bottom*). The position of the fly depends on the length of the leader, which is usually short (0.7 - 1.3M) fluorocarbon. As the line is stripped in, the fly sinks and then rises again on the pause. The range of this down-up action depends on the length of the strip and the buoyancy of the fly, which depends on the size of the eyes.

Usually, I use fairly quick strips of 10-12 inches with occasional short pauses (*strikes often come on the strip after the pause*).

Often a fish will tap the fly before grabbing it. Strikes are usually not subtle.

It is important to keep the fly moving, as fish have a tendency to swallow the fly if it is stationary. I like to strip Boobies over the edge of a drop-off using a fast sinking line, but they can be stripped along the bottom, over shallow shoals, or trolled. A Booby can also be fished higher in the water column on slower sinking lines, and I have had fish take it while still floating on the surface.

Another method, described by Gary Hanke, is using a Booby as the point fly on a “washing line” consisting of a floating line and long leader with dropper flies (not legal in BC, though possibly legal with the hook point of the booby removed and a single dropper). The Booby works as an attractor bringing fish close to the dropper fly.

While I have had some great days fishing Boobies, on other occasions they do not attract bites. Sometimes the trout prefer bright, flashy patterns and at other times (*especially in the Fall*) they prefer darker or drabber patterns (*such as pale olive*), or more natural ties. It is also useful to try different retrieves.

Tight Lines & Good Luck