

OSPREY FLY BOX

Charlie Boy Hopper

contributed by
Geoff Smart

The Charlie Boy Hopper is a pattern that I was introduced to some years ago as a "must-have fly" along with the Kauffmann stonefly for summer rainbow trout on the Thompson River. This fly was designed by Charlie Craven from Colorado as a more durable and long floating Hopper pattern.

On a July trip, in the midst of mid-30-degree weather, I was able to put the fly to use and within the first couple of drifts, I was hooked onto a feisty rainbow. The fly proved effective in catching several other fish that day and because of the positive buoyancy of the fly, it can be fished in a variety of water conditions from flat runs to riffles and surface chop. The beauty of this fly is the simplicity of the tie, good buoyancy, and visibility on broken water. While the recipe focussed on natural colours for the fly, many other colours combinations can be used to the tiers discretion and still be effective.



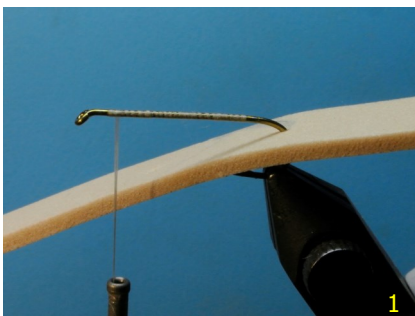
MATERIALS



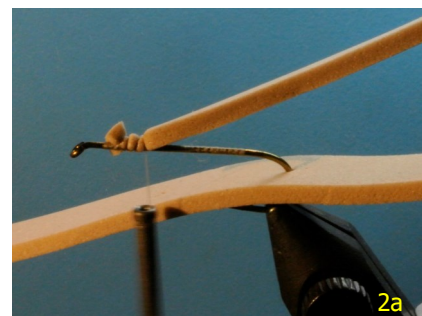
List of Materials:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Hook - | Tiemco 5212 or 6262 #4 or #8 |
| Thread - | 3/0 Tan Monocord |
| Binder Strip - | Tan 2mm x 2mm Fly Foam |
| Body - | Tan 2mm Thin Fly Foam |
| Wing - | Natural Deer Hair |
| Legs - | Brown Medium Rubber Legs |

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Cut a gap wide strip of 2mm foam with a utility knife and a metal straight edge about 3" long. Push the hook point into the middle of the foam about 3/4" from the end of the strip. Place the hook in the vise with the foam under the hook shank. Start the Tan thread at the eye of the hook and cover down to the bend and then back up to the eye.



2. Cut another foam strip from the sheet into a square 2mm x 2mm strip. Tie this thinner "Binder" strip to the hook shank immediately behind the hook eye. Spiral wrap the back over the foam strip to the bend of the hook, break off the excess. Run up to the eye and then back down to the bend to compress the foam to the hook shank.



TYING INSTRUCTIONS

..... *continued*



3. Pull the foam strip up to the binder strip and the hook eye to make a mark for the hook eye. Poke a hole at this mark and pull the eye through the hole. The back of the foam should be pointing up at an angle.



4. Put a tin coat of super glue or Zap-A-Gap on the entire upper surface of the foam including the hook shank/binder strip. Place some glue past the hook bend also. Don't over do the glue as a little is better than too much. Quickly before the glue dries, fold the front end of the foam back over the top of the shank and pinch it down all the way past the bend. Note the back of the foam should be sticking up at an angle.



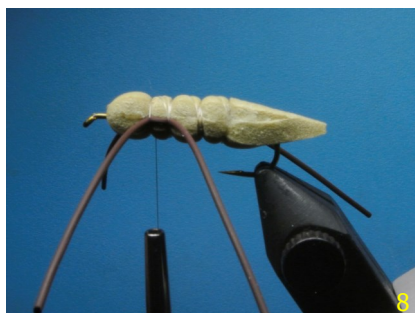
5. Using a straight razor blade cut the upturned tail section off level with the top of the body. Trim the two sides of the tail to a slight taper.



6. Make three tight wraps over the foam right at the bend of the hook. These turns of thread should compress the foam down on to the shank. Try to make these wraps as upright as possible and right on top of each other. Cross the thread lightly across the top of the foam body about a 1/4 of the way up the body. Then make another upright segment with three more tight wraps of thread. Continue this segmentation procedure for a total of four bands of upright thread making four segments.



7. When the segments are completed the top of the fly should look as so with the head slightly wider than the body



8. With the thread at the head tie in a single 2" strand of rubber legs, cross the thread back to behind the first segment. Make sure to keep the legs in the middle of the body. Do the same on the opposite side of the body.



9. Cut, clean and stack a generous bunch of deer hair. Measure and cut the stacked hair to about a shank length. Place two soft turns of thread over the hair and while holding the hair on top of the body pull tight to flare the hair. Make a three turn whip finish and place a small drop of head cement on the whip finish. Take a marker and place two dots for eyes.

Tight Lines & Good Luck!