

OSPREY FLY BOX

Tom Thumb

contributed by

Mike Harper

Along with the Doc Spratley and Halfback, the Tom Thumb is one of British Columbia's most famous patterns.

Tied in a variety of sizes the Tom Thumb represents Chironomids, Mayflies, Caddis and even Water Boatmen. Play with the colour and the Tom Thumb makes a plausible Ant or Beetle imitation. But the Tom Thumb is in its element when used as a Caddis imitation. Static or stripped on a floating line the Tom Thumb is deadly during a Caddis Hatch. This fly can also be fished on a full sinking line to imitate a Cased Caddis or Scud.

The only failing of the Tom Thumb is its durability, being all deer hair. Within a couple of fish the Tom Thumb is reduced to a shredded mess. But the more ragged and beat up the fly gets the more the fish chase it.

Mike caught his very first Rainbow on this deadly pattern this past summer and its his now go to dry fly.



MATERIALS



List of Materials:

- Hook - Tiemco 100 #8-#14
- Thread - Black UTC 140 or colour to compliment the deer hair
- Tail - Deer Hair (Natural, Olive, Tan, Black etc.)
- Shellback - Deer Hair (Natural, Olive, Tan, Black etc.)
- Wing - Deer Hair (Natural, Olive, Tan, Black etc.)

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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1. Place a de-barbed hook in the vise and cover the hook with tying thread, returning the thread to about an eye length from the hook eye.
2. Clip about a pencil diameter of deer hair (don't fall into the trap of too much). Remove the under fur and fuzzies. Place in a hair stacker and align the tips. Measure a tail about a hook length from the bend of the hook and clip the excess at the tie in point. Keeping the hair on top of the hook bind down to the bend relaxing the wraps toward the tail so not to flare the hair.



TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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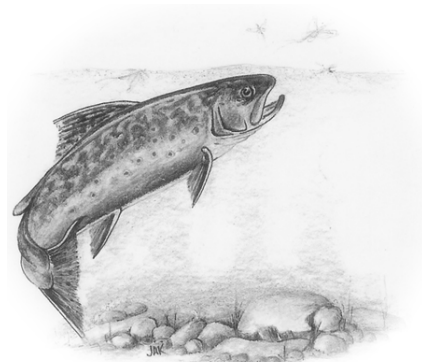
3. Cut the same diameter clump of deer hair from the hid as the tail clump. Remove the under fur and fuzzies. Place in a hair stacker and align the tips. Measure from the tie in point to the tips of the tail and add another body length of hair. This extra length will allow for a wing the same length as the tail when tied down. Keeping the hair on top of the hook bind down to the start of the tail. Unlike the photo don't let go of the tail so the hair doesn't mix with the tail. Return the thread to the original tie in point.



4. Pull the shellback hair back up the hook, keeping it on top of the hook and tie down at the tie in point.
5. Lift the wing up and place several thread wraps in front of the wing to lift it up.



6. Whip finish and the fly is complete. If you want to make the fly slightly more durable, coat the shell-back and underbody with UV thin fly finish.
7. Tie in different colours of deer hair to represent many different insects.



Tight Lines & Good Luck!