

Phil's Flybox

By Phil Rowley

"Tryityou'lllikeit"

Peter Caverhill is one of British Columbia's fly fishing celebrities. A contributing writer to The Gilly and former editor of the Osprey News, Peter still dabbles as a writer. Presently he is contributing features for bcadventures.com. To some Peter has an enviable job as a biologist with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP). He is responsible for fisheries management within region 2 of the province, the lower mainland. Within his position Peter has the challenge of balancing all of the various needs and demands upon the many fisheries within the region, while operating on an anemic and restrictive budget. I am amazed at Peter's ability to keep issues in perspective and maintain his outgoing nature. To offset his stresses Peter is an accomplished fly fisher. His travels have taken him all over the Pacific Northwest, to the blue ribbon streams of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, and to tropical destinations such as Christmas Island. Peter is also an excellent fly caster having recently obtained his Master's certificate. This is no easy feat as only a handful of casters have achieved this level of proficiency within the Pacific Northwest.

Perhaps most noted for creating the Caverhill Nymph, Peter has developed other successful fly patterns. A few years ago Peter created an experimental pattern to use in his pursuit of returning Coho salmon. The pattern made it to his fly box but like an unproven rookie it remained on the bench for a couple of seasons. Finally in the fall of 1999 the glare of this pattern's green plastic bead chain eyes wore Peter down. Reservations aside Peter tied his simple concoction onto his leader. Three hours and twelve Coho later his "Tryityou'lllikeit" had won a starting position and has never looked back. Peter's new invention's success was not limited to Coho salmon, Pete and other anglers have taken other species including Dolly Varden, Cutthroat and Chum salmon.

The nickel-plated, 4 X long Tiemco 9394 serves as the backbone for this uncomplicated dressing. Peter feels there is still some experimenting with hook size to be done but favors smaller patterns for Coho with a size 8

being his favorite. For spooky Coho or when working shallow or slow water conditions a size 10 is a worthwhile choice. The original bright olive body and yellow hackle combination has been Peter's favorite although he has tied the "Tryityou'lllikeit" using other combinations. There is no reason to suspect that other color combinations wouldn't work also. Peter feels the translucent olive eyes are an important component to the action of the fly as they cause it to plane with a nose up posture perhaps even providing some buoyancy. The only tricky part about this fly is getting a hold of the plastic bead chain. Resourceful tyers should scour craft shops to obtain a reliable source as not all craft shops carry the same materials. Orvis makes plastic bead chain that is available in a variety of colors including olive, for a size 8 dressing the 3mm (#1680-00) works best. Another option would be to make a number of eyes using glass beads mounted onto a monofilament stalk. Simply place the eyes onto a piece of monofilament, the diameter of the mono should provide for a snug fit. With the eyes in place melt the mono down to the eyes to form a stopper holding the eyes in place. Strategic use of epoxy or Super Glue provides further security.

Peter fishes his "Tryityou'lllikeit" primarily on one of the clear mono stealth lines such as the Scientific Anglers Stillwater. This line is perfect for lower mainland Coho fishing as it sinks slow enough to probe the regions numerous slow moving sloughs and rivers. To provide maximum coverage Peter fires out a long cast and then retrieves the fly using a rapid foot to foot and a half strip retrieve. Fish the cast out to its entirety as pursuing Coho often follow the fly to the angler's feet prior to striking.

The "Tryityou'lllikeit" is a spartan dressing perfectly suited for the typical late night pre trip fly tying session. The average tyer should be able to produce at least half dozen in fewer than thirty minutes. It's nice to find a pattern that is as effective as it is simple to tie, so "Tryityou'lllikeit!"

Tryityou'lllikeit

Hook: Tiemco 9394 #8
 Thread: Olive 8/0
 Tail: Yellow Saddle Fibers (Sparse)
 Body: Bright Olive (Super Floss, Rainy's Stretch Flex or suitable Yarn)
 Wing: Yellow Saddle Fibers (Sparse)
 Eyes: Translucent Bright Green Plastic Bead Chain

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

Cover the hook shank with tying thread.



Step 2

Strip a clump of hackle fibers from a dyed yellow saddle hackle and tie them in place forming a sparse tail that is half the shank in length.



Step 3

Tie in the body material, for this example I used pale olive Super Floss. Wind the material forward to form a slender body. Tie off the body material and trim any excess.



Step 4

Prepare a second clump of hackle fibers in the same manner as those used for the tail. Tie them in place about two eye widths back from the hook eye. As with the tail keep the wing sparse.



Step 5

Tie in a pair of plastic bead chain eyes half way between the wing tie in point and the eye of the hook. Figure eight the tying thread in and around the eyes to ensure a secure hold.

**Step 6**

Whip finish and cover the head area with head cement, super glue or epoxy to further secure the eyes

**Step 7**

Other alternatives for the eyes besides plastic bead chain include green mono eyes and making your own using a monofilament stem and a pair of glass beads. Melt the ends of the mono stem to form a stopper to keep the beads in place.



**Got a favorite pattern you would like to share with fellow club members?
Please let me know and I will feature it in a future issue. - Phil at
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