

OSPREY FLY BOX

BC PSYCHO BUNNY

contributed by
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I don't know the history behind this fly except that it was conceived and tied by Al Danielson.

I was fishing for pinks with Al on the Squamish. Many, many pinks, and the river was relatively high and murky due to a previous rain storm. I started off with an Intermediate Clear Tip and a pink wooly bugger. Al started with a type 3 tip and the chartreuse BC Psycho Bunny and started catching fish right away by the mouth. My action was next to nothing.

Next I went to a type 6 tip and started snagging, that wasn't good, so then I took a break and changed to the type 3 tip. I got a couple with this combination but not nearly so many as Al. I then tried some of the chartreuse colored flies I had in my fly box but again with no improvement. Meanwhile Al was catching fish after fish well on the way to a 100 fish day if he didn't tire out ahead of time.

Al was beginning to have pity on me and offered me one of his chartreuse Psycho Bunnies. I was exasperated, but not too stubborn to give one of his flies a try. It turned out to be a 50 fish day.

Next time out, I was with Sandy. The river was up significantly from my trip with Al flowing fast with poor visibility. I told him about the Psycho Bunny and the success I had had with it. This time I started with the Type 3 tip and the chartreuse Psycho Bunny. Despite the conditions, I was catching fish every second or third cast. Most by the mouth.

Following conventional thinking, Sandy was fishing a pink fly and not doing as well. Mostly snags. I gave him one of my Psycho Bunnys, and suggested switching to slower sink tip. We never looked back. Another very good fishing day on the river. Sandy kept the fly and tied up some copies for the next time out.

About a week and a half later Sandy and I headed out again. The level of the river had dropped again and in the section of

the river we were fishing, the current was very slow. Despite this, water clarity was still not good. Because the current was so slow, we switched from a Sink Tip to a Full Floating line with a six to nine foot leader.

The river was thick with fish traveling in schools. Opportunities for snagging were plentiful. Fishing the Psycho Bunny on a pure float line and a leader, letting it drift with the current with a couple of mends and then a slow retrieve resulted in a take or a touch on most casts. That day, although each of us caught over 50 fish (lost count), we may have had only five or six snags. Quite remarkable.



This fly can be tied in various colors. I tried one in pink but it was not nearly as effective. The Chartreuse coloring seems to be important. Bear in mind, that there will be days when pink is the "color de jour".

It also is most effective with a slow retrieve. The takes can be very soft and sometimes may feel like the line is just a little harder to pull. However, for most takes, there was no doubt the fish were going after it. Keep the fly high in the water column above the fish, they will rise from the school to attack it.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad S82-3609B or TMC 5262
Size #4 - #6
- Thread:** Fire Orange 8/0
- Eyes:** Silver Bead Chain (*size to match hook*)
- Tail:** Chartreuse Krystal Flash
- Body:** Chartreuse UV Polar Chenille
- Wing:** Chartreuse Rabbit Zonker
- Head:** Small Chartreuse Chenille

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



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The Finished Fly

BC Psycho Bunny - Chartreuse

- De-barb the hook
- Tie in the bead chain using figure 8's approximately 1/8 inch behind the eye of the hook.
- Whipfinish, add a drop of Zap-a-Gap or Super Glue and set aside to dry.
- Use large bead chain on #4 hook and medium bead chain on #6. Tie the eyes on all the hooks that you intend tying, before proceeding to next step.
- Tie in 15 to 20 strands of Krystal Flash for the tail. Clip at approximately 3/4 the length of the hook.
- Create a solid orange underbody with the thread.
- Tie in the Chartreuse UV Polar Chenille and wrap forward towards the eye of the hook.
- Leave small gaps between each wrap so that the orange underbody shows through.
- Stroke the fibres back as you are wrapping the polar chenille forward.
- Split the polar chenille fibres on the undershank of the hook with a needle or bodkin. Stoke the fibres up above the shank and towards the rear of the hook forming an underwing.
- Trim any unruly polar chenille fibres along the underside of the shank.
- Prepare a rabbit strip by cutting the zonker strip to form a point. The rabbit strip should be no longer than the shank of the hook.
- Tie in behind the bead eyes with several tight wraps of thread.
- The fur of the rabbit strip should extend just beyond the polar chenille fibres.
- Tie in small chartreuse chenille behind the bead chain. Make one wrap behind the eyes and then wrap around the eyes forming a compact head.
- Tie off in front of the bead chain. Secure with several wraps of thread. Whipfinish and add a drop of head cement.
- For Pink Salmon the two most productive colours are chartreuse and pink.



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The Finished Fly



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BC Psycho Bunny - Pink



Humpback Salmon