

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## BOOBY VAMPIRE LEECH

*contributed by*

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For years I have been using Todd Oishi's Vampire leeches for stillwater fishing in BC. Easy to tie, I use them as beaded streamers in a range of sizes for stripping, as well as in sparser balanced versions under indicators (*but sometimes stripped*).

While Vampire leeches were included in our Osprey Fly Box book, they have apparently not been included as a Fly of the Month. Before my recent trip to Lago Strobel (*aka Jurassic Lake*) in Argentina, Phil Rowley posted a YouTube video suggesting that a Vampire Booby would be a good fly for Strobel, so I tied a few. I am glad I did, because it yielded a 16.5 pound rainbow trout at "Monster Bay".

I normally fish boobies from a boat using a sinking line with 3-4 ft leader, allowing the fly to sink to the bottom, and then retrieve it with moderately long, moderately fast strips with occasional pauses. At Strobel, I did long wind-aided Spey casts from shore using a 15 ft fast sinking tip attached to a floating Skagit head, and allowed the fly to sink to the muddy bottom. My guide urged me to do very long, very slow strips, with a 1 second pause between each strip to allow the fly to rise. That worked, with the takes usually on the beginning of the strip.

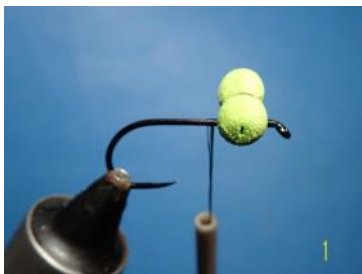


### MATERIALS



- Hook:** Wide gap streamer hook, Orientsun 5262BL Comp series #10 (troutbum.ca)
- Eyes:** Rainy's Boobie Round Eyes, Medium, Fluorescent chartreuse
- Thread:** UTC 140, black
- Tail:** Buzzer Marabou, Black or purple
- Tail Flash:** Krystal Flash, Pearl
- Body:** Hareline UV Polar Chenille, Medium, Black or purple

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. After building up a bump of thread, flatten the thread and tie in the booby eye near front of the hook, using figure 8 wraps and tight wraps under the foam. Secure the eyes to hook with super glue.
2. Tie in a marabou tail about the length of the shaft, here in contrasting purple.



**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

*..... continued*



3. Tie in Krystal Flash, 2 strands on each side of the tail; cut tips just beyond the marabou.

4. After removing some fibers from its tip, tie in the chenille and palmer it forward, stroking the fibers back on each turn. Tie off chenille behind the eyes and advance the thread to front of the fly. Create a small head and whip finish to complete the fly. Apply head cement.



5. An alternative vampire booby tied on a standard gap 5262BL hook, #10 (troutbum.ca); the tail is made with flue fibers stripped from the base of a black Schlappen feather (preferred by Rowley for small leeches); Semperfli black UV straggle string body; trimmed 5mm chartreuse foam tube eyes, ends rounded with scissors.



6. A vampire leech tied on a 60° jig hook, #10; 1/8" fluorescent chartreuse offset tungsten bead (troutbum.ca or Canadian Llama); black flue fiber tail with flash; purple UV straggle string body. This fly can be fished as a balanced leech under an indicator using a clinch type knot secured tightly to the top of the hook eye, or stripped using a non-slip loop knot.



7. A family of vampires. Orange foam heads or fluorescent orange beads are also often used instead of chartreuse.

*Tight Lines & Good Luck!*