

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## CONE HEAD MUDDLER

*contributed by*  
Anne Alfano

Ahhh , the old rolled muddler minnow

I have used this fly for many years, a definite go to fly. I have caught all sorts of fish with this baby ... cutthroat, trout, coho and even the odd spring and chum!

When I first learned just how productive this fly was, it began turning many of my fishing days around.

Andrew, from Michael & Young, told me one day when I asked him, "What is your favorite fly to use on the Chehalis river?"

Needless to say, he said "The olive rolled muddler and the more beat up the better ..."

Small and sparse works best for me and I like the cone head. You can change it up a bit ... gold bead and gold body OR silver bead and silver body. I have even tied some in coho blue, chartreuse and of course, natural.

If I had to tell a story about an unforgettable day of fishing with this fly, it would be November 10, 2007.

Two of my fishing companions and I were out hunting for coho on the Harrison river. Through out the day, we were hooking sockeye and chum, but no coho. We were pulling out all the stops and hitting all of our favorite spots.

Close to the end of the day we pulled off into this quiet little bay off the main channel for a pit stop. I was walking through some trees and spotted a creek feeding out into the bay. I also found a dead heron on the ground, and no, I didn't take it for the feathers. I walked back to where

my friends were and told them what I found, so we all went to investigate. While looking at the bird, we glanced into the bay, past the creek, and discovered that it was loaded with coho in the beautiful frog water ... perfect conditions.

Don, who showed me how to tie the cone head muddler, had his version on a very small #12 hook. We plucked fifteen coho out of there in just over an hour. It was so amazing to watch. I couldn't believe how small the fly was and how big the coho were .



*Anne Alfano with a fresh salmon caught on a tiny olive muddler!!!*

As usual, we're always finding the fish at the end of the day .....or is it just me???

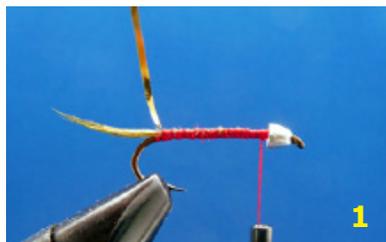
### MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 9672,  
Size #10 or to suit
- Bead:** Cone Head, Small, Silver or Gold
- Thread:** Red 8/0
- Tail:** Olive Mallard Flank
- Body:** Flat Silver Mylar Tinsel, Silver or Gold
- Under Wing:** Olive Mallard Flank  
Two Strands Krystal Flash (*optional*)
- Over Wing:** Olive Deer Hair

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

*Photography by Peter Chatt*



- Debarb the hook and slide the cone head on to the hook.
- Lay a thread base to the bend of the hook
- Tie in the Mallard tail and the flat mylar tinsel.
- Wrap the thread forward to the eye.



- Wrap the mylar tinsel forward to the eye. Fold it back on itself to lock it in place.
- Create a red thread pad to hold the cone in place and to put the wing on.



- Tie in the Olive Mallard wing.
- OPTIONAL: At this time you can add the one strand of Krystal Flash on each side.



- Comb the under fur out of a small bundle of olive deer hair.
- Stack the deer hair and then tie on top of the red pad. Thread pressure will cause the deer hair to flair out. When applying pressure on the thread, hold tightly in place to ensure that the deer hair does not spin.

*The Finished Fly*



*Olive Cone Head Muddler*

- Clip the head tight along the surface of the cone head.
- Add a drop of head cement on the underside of the fly.
- The red thread imitates the gills that show on a frightened skulpin or fry.