

OSPREY FLY BOX

FLATTERY

contributed by
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This pattern comes by way of a stolen secret. The fly's originator claimed that, "This is the best, and only, fly I use for beach Cutthroat!" Wow, that gets some attention! However, the secret sauce was not to be revealed despite desperate pleading in the church position.

They say "Imitation is the greatest form of flattery" (*don't know who they are?*). The challenge here was to produce a fly as close to the original, having had only a brief glance at it. I guess I could have bought an original for eight bucks, at a fly shop, to use as a model that could be forensically autopsied. However, innovation and discovery trumped economics.

So, here is what I have come up with. It is a bit of a "process" and may not be everyone's sip of wine. Once you have all the bits and pieces together and have spent some time figuring out the construction steps, making multiple copies of this fly is pretty easy.



What lies behind the foam cylinder (*ie hair, tinsel, fur, feathers*) I am leaving up to you to be creative. Why? This fly works as a surface skater and this action, via the foam cylinder, is what entices the fish. The stuff on the back adds balance and goes along for the ride. So any combo of back-end material is likely fine. Additionally, you can cut the foam cylinder from small to larger lengths. The trailer hook should sit 1 to 1½ times the foam body length behind.

Does it work off the beach for cutthroat. Yes! It's a surface fly that is great for searching. Cast and strip. It does seem to be a bit of magic when a large yellow belly comes out of nowhere and chases this waking gizmo almost in to your waders. Sometimes you hook and sometimes you don't. Exciting!

BITS & PIECES (MATERIALS)

White foam cylinders (7mm) - available at fly shops; this is what makes this fly work

Bodkin – heated with the lighter and shoved through the center of the foam cylinder

Lighter – to heat the bodkin before poking it through the cylinder to accommodate the shank

Galvanized wire (fine) – twisted to make the "eye" and the "shank" which inserts through the foam cylinder. (*wire is available at dollar/hardware stores*)

Headless small diameter nail in wood block – used to form the "eye" and the initial 3 twists of the "shank"

Pliers – grips the "eye" and allows the continuous twists to make the "shank" (*after removing the "eye" and wire from the headless nail*)

Wire cutters – as required to cut the wire or the twisted "shank"

Super Glue – secures the "shank" inside the foam cylinder

Beading wire (coated SS; 7 to 19 strand) – available at craft shops like Michaels; stiffly attaches the trailer hook to the protruding end of the "shank" (*the two strands are lashed down then bent back and lashed to totally secure the trailer hook*)

Yellow fabric paint and black permanent marker pen – a yellow eye with black pupil on the foam cylinder finishes the fly and equips it to look for Cutthroat

Hook – barbless, short shank, wide gape, trout size (#4 - #8)



INSTRUCTIONS

- **Make the “eye” and “twisted wire shank”** - Use enough wire (*about 6 inches*); double it into a loop; place the loop on the headless nail to make the eye and the initial 3 twists. After you have the eye and three twists, slip the eye and wire off the nail. Grip the eye with pliers and continue hand twisting the two wire strands close together (*perpendicular to each other*) until you have a good shank length (*several inches*)
- **Shank through foam cylinder** – slide the shank through via the hole that was made down through the center. A drop or two of super glue on the shank as it is slid through will anchor it.
- **Beading wire to hook** - take a length of the trailer hook line (*beading wire*), double it over as a loop then insert the loop through the hook eye and over the bend (*pull the strands tight so that the wire “hugs” around the hook eye*). The doubled beading wire (*two strands*) is brought back to the twisted wire “shank” (*now secured in the vise*). Lash it off very close to the back end of the foam cylinder. Fold the bead wire back toward the hook and lash it down to guarantee that the trailer will not pull out.
- **Final steps** – your choice of materials will be tied in at the tie in point at the back of the foam cylinder. When completed, nip off the remaining “shank” right behind the lash-in point.



Tight Lines & Good Luck