

OSPREY FLY BOX

HENRI'S EPOXY MINNOW

contributed by
Henri Jover

Many, many, moons ago, when I could barely tell the difference between a rainbow and a cutthroat (*which even to this day may not be as easy one might think*) I was determined to start the New Year in a special way that I had never done before. It was to be casting a fly on the first day of the year! I decided the place was to be on the Harrison river. Days earlier I was shown a fry pattern that was not to difficult to tie and is also very effective, I thought to myself "Hey, my kind of fly." (*especially for a novice*).

The fly was a tied down minnow pattern and I tied myself a few for that first day of the New Year. To fish the fry pattern one simply needs to observe (*an important habit to have*) how the fry behave when they're swimming about or holding in slower currents and in back eddies.

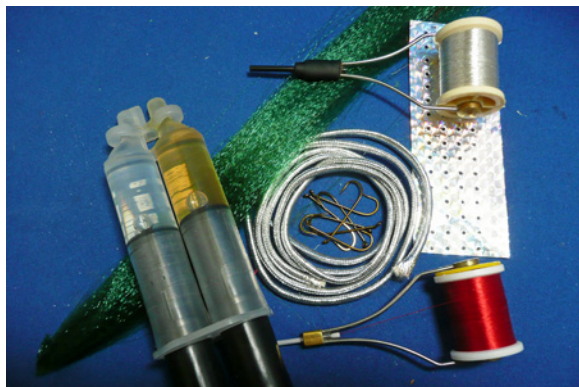
I parked my car on the west side of the bridge and made my way down to the river's shore and suddenly saw a nice rise 100 feet up river. With rod in hand I made the best cast I could and the fry pattern landed more or less in the vicinity of the rise. I started stripping the fly slowly but steadily and bang the line tightened! I was stunned and grinning from ear to ear. First day

of the year, first rise, first cast and wow, first fish of the year! It fought well but differently from a typical cuttie and when it was close enough to shore I was stunned to see that this was a Dollie Varden and as well my very first one to boot!!! What an amazing day!



A few hours later I needed to get back home to celebrate the first day of the New Year with family. From that moment on this fly has always been in my fly box every spring when those fry are swimming about in our rivers. I've landed many, many cutthroat along with the odd Dollie or as we call them today, Bulltrout..

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 9672 (*or similar*)
 Sizes: #4 to #10
- Thread:** Silver or Monofilament
- Body:** Silver Mylar Tubing
- Back:** Supreme Hair - Green
- Gills:** Bright Red Thread
- Eyes:** Mylar Sick On (*size to fit*)
- Coating:** 2 ton Epoxy (*or substitute*)

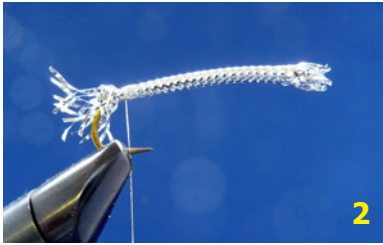
TYING INSTRUCTIONS

& Photography by Peter Chatt



- Cut a piece of silver mylar tubing to desired length.
- Remove the core from the mylar tubing.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*



- Debarb the hook.
- Tie in the thread above the back of the barb.
- Unravel a 1/4" of the mylar tube and slide on the hook allowing the tail to hang out
- Tie down the mylar so it doesn't move. Apply a half hitch.



- Select a small bundle of synthetic hair for the back.
- Tie in with the silver thread. Whip finish. Clip the silver thread.
- Slide the silver mylar tubing back over the eye of the hook.
- Tie in the Red Thread and secure the mylar tubing behind the eye of the hook.
- Create the gills with the red thread. Whip finish and clip red thread.



- Tie in the silver thread again behind the eye of the hook.
- Pull the green fibres forward and bind down with several wraps of the silver thread.
- Fold the green fibres back and lock into place with several more wraps of thread.
- Clip the excess fibres.



- Continue to build the head with the silver thread.
- Flatten the head with a pair of smooth pliers.
- Apply the stick on eyes to both sides of the head and secure with pliers again.



- Apply a coating of epoxy to the head and the entire body.
- Turn on drying wheel.

The Finished Fly



- Fish in the spring when the fry are in the river.

Henri's Epoxy Minnow