

OSPREY FLY BOX

ISLANDER — ORANGE

contributed by

Sandy McKinlay

Back in 2008, Blair Thomas and I headed up to the north end of Vancouver Island for a week of fishing for Pink Salmon. We would be camping on the spit at Cluxewe Resort, and expected to have a great week of fishing and relaxation.

Dan Cahill was camping in the site next to us and was fishing with Perry Wilson, a long time fishing buddy, who now runs a guiding service out of Port McNeill.

As I expected that we would have a lot of free time, I brought up my tying bench, my equipment and a ton of materials, not only for Pink Salmon flies, but also for spey flies.

I had recently bought a couple books on tying Spey Flies something I had never tried but was eagerly looking forward to. At this point, the only thing I had done was a bit of reading ... and truth be told, I was hooked on the beauty of these big flies.

I figured if I could tie materials on a size 16 hook, I should be able to master a size 1/0 hook with no problem. I quickly learned that the materials were considerably more expensive than those used on the typical trout fly but those long fibres do look elegant and those jungle cock nails seem to really add pizzazz to the fly.... in the fisherman's eyes anyway.

The fishing was slow, so I got my books and fly tying stuff out. I re-read an article from the Osprey News on a demonstration Dan had done for the club several months earlier on tube flies and what he considered the important elements of the fly. Drawing on that and the numerous recipes of patterns in the books I had brought, I put a 1/0 hook in the vice and began.

Working with the limited materials I had, the Islander was created over a few beers one sunny afternoon. As the fishing



was slow, Blair and Dan were both available to offer their ideas and input. That afternoon, we tied a new pattern, dubbed the "Islander", in orange and chartreuse. Perry dropped by later that afternoon for a glass of single malt scotch, had a look at our new creations and firmly asserted that these flies would most definitely catch steelhead.

To put the fly to the test, I gave Perry a few of the flies and asked him to fish them at his leisure.

A few month's later I got an e-mail from Perry saying that "my bugs were catching fish" and that the Orange Islander, in particular had been effective. He had made one modification though, and suggested it be added to the recipe ~ he added the gold tag

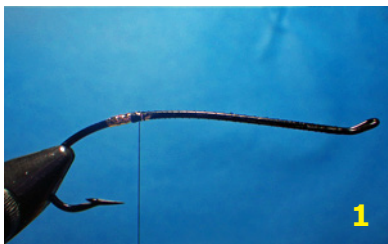
Experiment with other colours steelhead colours purple and chartreuse should also be productive.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Partridge Bartleett Traditional Salmon Hook
(or similar) Sizes: 2 to 1/0
- Thread:** Sheer Ultra-Fine 14/0 - Black
- Tag:** Flat Gold Tinsel
- Tail:** Orange Calf Tail
- Butt:** Black Ostrich Herl
- Body:** Rear Half: Orange Floss
Front Half: Dubbed Black Seal Fur
- Rib:** Medium Gold Oval Tinsel (front half only)
- Hackle:** Mid Point: Orange Saddle Hackle
Body: Black Blue Eared Pheasant (or substitute)
- Throat:** Orange Guinea Hen
- Under Wing:** Orange Silver Fox
- Over Wing:** Black Golden Pheasant Flank
- Cheeks:** Jungle Cock

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1

- Wrap a thread base along the shank to the point of the hook.
- Tie in Flat Gold Tinsel above the point of the hook. Tightly wrap 1/8" towards the back of the hook and forward again to the tie in point. Tie off and clip the excess.

NOTE: I recommend using Sheer 14/0 thread to minimize thread build up. This is an ultra-fine thread that is surprisingly strong.

- Tie in a small bundle of orange calf tail for the tail.



3

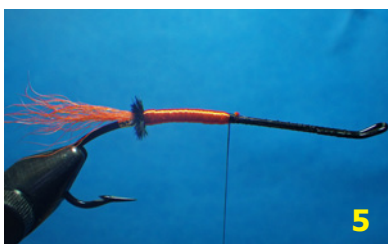
- Stroke back fibres on a strand of black ostrich herl.
- Tie in just in front of the tinsel tag. Make 3 or 4 tight wraps of the herl to form the butt of the fly.
- Tie off and clip excess.

- Wind the thread forward to the mid point of the hook shank.

- Take two long strands of orange floss and fold around the thread. Tie in at the mid point of the hook.

- Wrap the four strands of floss back to the butt and then forward again to the tie in point forming a nice smooth body.

- Tie off and clip the excess.



5

- Select a orange saddle hackle with fibres that are not much wider than the gap of the hook.
- Strip the webby fibres off the bottom of the feather and tie in just in front of the orange floss body.
- Make 3 or 4 tight wraps, stroking the hackle fibres back with each wrap.
- Tie off and clip the excess. Make several additional wraps of the thread so that the hackle fibres form a cone.



7

- Tie in the gold oval tinsel on the bottom of the hook in front of the orange hackle.



9

- Select a black Blue Eared Pheasant rump feather. Strip the webby fibres off the bottom of the feather. Stroke the fibres back.
- Tie in by the tip n top of the hook.

NOTE: If you want a "sparse" fly, strip the fibres off one side of the rump feather prior to tying in.



2



4



6



8

TYING INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*



The Finished Fly

Islander - Orange

- Form a dubbing loop in front of the hackle and wind the thread forward to the eye of the hook.
- Add a bit of dubbing wax to the thread and insert seal's fur into the loop.
- Spin into a "rope" and wrap forward. Leave enough room to add the winging materials and to form the head of the fly.
- Trim the dubbing fur with scissors to form a nice body.
- Wrap the oval tinsel forward - four wraps - toward the front of the body.
- **NOTE:** A matter of personal preference, but I often tie some of the materials off on the bottom of the hook (*as I have done with the ribbing*) to minimize bulk on the top of the fly.
- Wrap the blue-eared pheasant rump forward in front of the oval rib. Stroke the fibres back as you wrap the feather.
- Split the fibres on top down the middle and stroke the fibres down and back. Clip or pull off unruly fibres, especially those on top of the hook.
- Strip the fibres off one side of an orange Guinea Hen feather.
- Tie in by the tip and make two or three wraps. Tie off and clip excess.
- Split the fibres at the top and pull down and back on each side. Lock the fibres in place with a couple wraps of thread, to form a throat.
- Tie in a small bundle of Orange Silver Fox as an under wing.

- Select two black Golden Pheasant Flank feathers. Strip the fibres off the bottom of feather.
- Tie in one at a time over the back of the fly.
- **NOTE:** Slide the butts of the feather through the eye of the hook. This helps keep the feathers centred while tying them in. Make a few tight wraps, then clip, and continue with the fly.
- Select two matching Jungle Cock feathers. Strip the fibres off the bottom of the feather.
- Tie in on each side of the fly and clip the excess.
- Form a small thread head, whip finish and apply a couple coats of head cement.

