

# *Phil's Flybox*

By Phil Rowley

## Kelly's Coho Killer (K.C.K.)

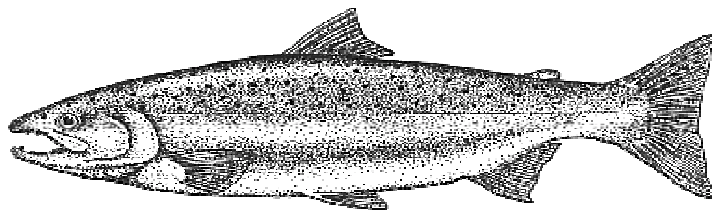
Kelly Davison is well known amongst British Columbia fly fishers. He has long since been recognized as a source for information regarding interior lakes, steelhead, salmon, and his personal favorite, sea run cutthroat. Kelly has the good fortune of being directly involved with the sports fishing industry working at Babcock Fly and Tackle in Coquitlam. Prior to his arrival at Babcock's Kelly was a fixture at Ruddick's Fly Shop for many years. In addition Kelly is the owner-operator of Searun Guiding Service. From September through till the end of November it is tough to catch Kelly in the shop as he whisks clients throughout the lower mainland in search of Coho salmon. Considered an expert pursuing Coho with the fly Kelly has pioneered and developed the flies and techniques many of us find necessary to be successful.

Perhaps Kelly's most famous Coho pattern is his Coho Killer or K.C.K. for short. Essentially a modernized version of the venerable Professor the K.C.K. has become a must have pattern for any serious Coho fly-rodder. In the fall of 1986 the lower mainland experienced extreme low water conditions. Coho were spooky and tough to find. But every cloud has a silver lining, under these conditions Kelly could see first hand how fish reacted singly or in groups to particular flies, fly color and presentation techniques. Through this process Kelly discovered that Coho have a definite preference towards yellow and red fly patterns.

With this information in hand Kelly altered the basic foundation of a size 6 Professor substituting red saddle for the tail and hackle, yellow Crystal Chenille for the body and topping the teal wing with four strands of pearlescent Krystal Flash. The results have been astounding and Kelly has furthered his research and experimentation to include other body colors and combinations. Inserting a red Crystal Chenille butt to the yellow original, created another winning combination for both jack and mature Coho. Another great mixture consists of a red rear and an orange forward section. In the low light of early morning a red body with a purple butt can be lethal.

The K.C.K. works best in the slow to still pond water migrating Coho seem to prefer. Waters containing sunken logs and weed beds such as the Harrison River are prime Coho waters. Respecting their cautious nature Kelly makes either the 3M Stillwater or Cortland's Clear Camo his fly lines of choice in the pursuit of Coho. Kelly's favorite retrieve is a brisk foot long strip retrieve that induces the unsuspecting Coho to chase the fly. To sweeten the pot Kelly picks up pace slowly bringing his retrieve to a crescendo. Unable to resist the fleeing fly the Coho tracks down the pattern, often with a savage take.

The K.C.K. should be considered a necessity for any British Columbia fly fisher thinking about the pursuit of migrating Coho. Rather than waste valuable time sorting through a trout like selection of fly patterns, search the water in the hopes of finding an individual or a group of Coho on the bite. Just make sure you have a good basic supply of all of the various color combinations of the K.C.K., as there are Coho brawling Chum Salmon never far away. These brutes are as selective as frenzied sharks and in no time leave a well-stocked fly box a foam wasteland dotted with a few lucky K.C.K. survivors.



## Kelly's Coho Killer (K.C.K.)

Hook:	Tiemco 5262 #6-8
Thread:	Red 6/0
Tail:	Red Saddle Fibers
Body:	Yellow Crystal Chenille
Hackle:	Red Saddle
Wing:	Teal Flank
Topping:	4 Strands of pearlescent Krystal Flash

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

#### Step 1

Cover the hook shank with tying thread. Strip a clump of fibers from one side of a red saddle hackle. Tie the clump in place at the rear of the hook forming a tail that is half the shank in length.



#### Step 2

Tie in a length of yellow Crystal Chenille.



#### Step 3

Wind the Crystal Chenille forwards to form the body, stop the chenille about 2 eye widths back from the hook eye to avoid a crowded messy head. Tie off the chenille and trim the excess.



#### Step 4

Select a red saddle hackle and tie it in place just in front of the chenille wet fly style so the glossy side of the feather points towards the tyer. Tied in this fashion the fibers will naturally sweep rearwards along the fly.



#### Step 5

Wind the hackle 2 to 3 times around the hook. Resist the urge to overdress the fly. Tie off and trim the excess saddle hackle. Using the thumb and forefinger sweep the hackle down and back and secure in place with the tying thread. This clears a path for the wing



**Step 6**

Strip off one side of a well barred teal flank feather. Align the tips and tie them in place on top of the hook so the tips extend about half way up the tail of the pattern. Try to take advantage of the natural curvature of the teal flank so the wing cups over the fly. Moistening the feather after tying in place helps train the feather to do this.

**Step 7**

Take 2 strands of pearlescent Krystal Flash and double them around the tying thread. Slide the doubled Krystal Flash along the tying thread and position it on top of the hook shank. Secure the Krystal Flash in place and build up a neat head. Whip finish and apply head cement, then trim the Krystal Flash even with the tips of the wing.



**Got a favorite pattern you would like to share with fellow club members?  
Please let me know and I will feature it in a future issue. - Phil at  
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