

OSPREY FLY BOX

MARGARITA
by Doug Wright

It's winter steelhead season and here is a fly that has been seeing the water quite a bit lately.

It is nothing special, just a big marabou bug with some weight in the front and a trailer hook in the back.

I like the profile and along with the right sink tip/head, it gets down to the bottom which is certainly not a bad thing during this time of year!

It is simple to tie and doesn't really require any expensive materials other than a good, strong bait hook for the trailer.

When guiding up at the lodge and tying flies almost every night, you quickly learn that simplicity and the use of easily-obtainable materials will do wonders and proves to be just as effective as the opposite. Not to forget that losing flies to the bottom during these months is common, this pattern is quick and simple to construct, and I seldom cringe when breaking one off.



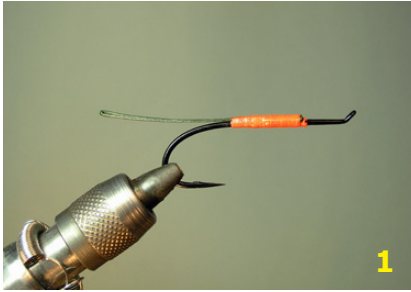
Doug Wright with a beautiful winter steelhead caught on a local river in February.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 36890.
- Trailing Hook:** Owner SSW, size 1, Up-Turned Eye Bait Hook.
- Thread:** 3/0 to secure the FireLine loop. 6/0 Pink.
- Loop:** 80-pound Fireline (*hard to find, 60lb will do*)
- Tail:** Purple Marabou or Bucktail with highlights of Flashabou.
- Body:** Hot Pink Crystal Chenille, Large.
- Hackle:** Hot Pink and Silver Doctor Blue Marabou.
- Legs:** Hot Pink Super Floss or Wiggle Legs.
- Highlights:** Fitting colours of Flashabou; Blue, Purple, Pearl, etc.
- Collar:** Hot Pink Schlappen or Guinea Fowl.
- Eyes:** Hourglass Eyes

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Start tying thread and wrap shank.

Form a loop by doubling a length of FireLine so that it trails back around an inch in length or long enough to easily allow hook changes. I like to use 80-pound FireLine, giving you all the advantages of playing fish on a short shank bait hook while remaining stiff enough so that it trails directly behind the fly and isn't loosely swinging around in the current.

Fold the tag ends alongside the shank and continue to secure with tight wraps. Whip finish and apply a coat of super glue such as Loctite to the entire thread base.



Tie in a long clump of purple marabou or bucktail for the tail with highlights of a flash material. I usually add a couple strands of pearlescent and holographic silver Flashabou.

Secure the Crystal Chenille and wind forward to form the body, tying off at the returning tag end of the hook eye.

I use the Crystal Chenille in its large size so that it helps spread the hackle/collar and prevent it from collapsing. Any other similar material can be substituted; Tri-Lobal and Polar Chenille are fantastic for this.



This is where I like to tie in and secure the hourglass eyes behind the hook eye. You can also save this step until the very end before whip-finishing and finishing the fly if you prefer.

Take a plume of hot pink marabou and tie in by the tip. Fold the remaining tip of the feather back over itself and secure for a little extra security. Each wrap touching the last, wind the plume forward. I don't like to use the entire feather, staying with 3-4 wraps instead.

Too much material will cause a little less action in the water but more importantly becomes a great ordeal to cast. Tie off and trim the excess. Secure a plume of blue marabou and wind forward in the same manner. Again, discard the remaining material.



Next is the addition of some legs and highlights of mylar tinsel. Tie in a strand of hot pink super floss along either side of the fly. Wiggle Legs are another great alternative.

Tie in some Flashabou running back along the top and bottom of the fly. For the top I take 3 strands of both blue and purple Flashabou, double their center-point around the tying thread, and bind in place. I then use another 3-4 strands of pearlescent Flashabou for the bottom and add to the fly in the same fashion.

Finally, tie in a hot pink schlappen feather and wind forward using around 5 wraps to form the collar and neatly cover the tying thread. Whip finish, sweep back and bundle every strand of Flashabou as well as the legs and trim so they extend back slightly farther than the tip of the tail.

Apply a coat or two of superglue to the thread securing the hourglass eyes in place.

The Finished Fly



Margarita

Remove the fly from the vise and cut the remainder of the hook (*where the FireLine loop and tail are tied in*), removing the bend and point of the hook.

Loop a #1 bait hook with an up-turned eye to the FireLine having it trail hook point up. I like to use the Owner SSW style bait hooks with the Cutting Point – they are strong, reliable, and ultra sharp.

Don't stop here; try experimenting and fooling around with some other colour combinations to broaden your arsenal.