

The Osprey Fly Box

“Micro Minnow”

This month’s pattern comes to us from someone who’s been spending way too much time out on the Fraser and its tributaries since he retired a few years ago. **Bill Lee** fishes for cutties pretty well more than anyone I know. He and my neighbour Peter Chatt and Terry Bragg can be found scouring the gravel bars of the Fraser Valley pretty well every Tuesday and Thursday when the crowds are down and the fish are a little less pressured.

“Over the past 10 years or so, maybe more, maybe less (I just can’t keep track of time anymore) I’ve noticed that in Jan, Feb and March I was consistently missing fish using larger sized fry patterns. I down sized to a size 10 9671 and found that although my productivity had improved it still wasn’t great, or wasn’t what I thought it should be. I experimented with different body materials and wing length until I came upon this small minnow. This simple fly has worked extremely well for me the past few years and I’ve had several days on the Harrison and other rivers with exceptional results. I’ve found this fly will stop producing as soon as the fry start to emerge when the fish seem to target the larger naturals.”

Hook:	Size 10 Mustad 9671
Thread:	Unithread 8/0 tan
Body:	Unithread size 14 mylar
Rib:	Unithread 5gr silver french wire
Wing:	Mallard flank with 2 strands crystal flash
Eyes:	White and black Scribbles craft paint

Tying tips

Tie in the rib near the eye and wrap your thread back to the bend binding the rib down as you go.

Move you thread up to the eye and tie in the mylar, wrap the mylar to the back and then forward again to form the body, cut and tie off.

After wrapping the rib, apply head cement to the body

Extend Crystal Flash and mallard to just beyond the hook end, keep the wing sparse.

Build a small head with the thread as a base for the eyes.

Apply eyes with a finishing nail, first the white, then the black.

Cover the head with head cement.



Bill fishes this fly in the slow moving water of the Fraser, Harrison and other streams of the Fraser Valley he doesn't care to name. He likes to use it with a floating line and a leader of 15 to 20 feet, getting most of his strikes at the end of the swing or during the retrieve. His best tactic for working the fly is to use slow 6 to 8 inch pulls, speeding up the strips near the end of the retrieve.

This fly is simple to tie and has proven effective for Bill the last few years, I’m sure it will become a cuttie staple in your fly box too!