

OSPREY FLY BOX

Orange & Black Something

contributed by

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The annual trip to the Upper Dean is always an adventure. Everything learnt from past trips is tested, re-evaluated, and tested again. Last September was no different. Dianne, my husband, David, and myself made the pilgrimage confident that we had a handle on the water and the cutbow, but just as certain we'd find ourselves challenged in some way. David had prepared by stopping in at Hub Sports in Abbotsford. Locals know Hub as a place that has most things sometimes, and sometimes, has nothing. He made his purchase: three orange and black Doc Sprately flies, he said. I thought well they are similar, but different because they had an orange bit of fluff just before the tail. Never mind...We're off and we've got a long drive ahead.

The first days of fishing were successful; it seemed everything we put on our slow sink lines could not fail. We travelled the river testing stoneflies, Idaho nymphs, ants, and so on. Fast retrieves, slow retrieves, absolutely everything was working in our favour. Then, the fourth day hit. The water rose over a foot in 24 hours. The deep water was quiet, the shallows chuckled at our incompetence. Frustration is worse when one person in the bunch is not as equally stymied by a slow day on the water. David was in his glory. On a slow sink, he was feeling the sharp



lurch of his line consistently. Finally, I asked him..."What d'ya have on there?" "Sprately" he replied, "Orange and Black."

When we got home, we stopped in at Hub, and David bought a few more. I put the ones David shared with me on the table. I'd look at them later, I thought. I really was planning on dismantling them. Of course, I didn't. They lay on the table, left behind evidence of a past day fishing. Then, my name was drawn for fly of the month. I'm going to be honest, I didn't think I'd submit this fly. After all, I don't know its real name, and I don't know who to attribute its origins.

A google search of Black and Orange streamer or attractor has lead me to look at some similar designs, and certainly there are elements of a Doc Sprately. For example, the silver/black body, the peacock down wings have an undeniable Sprately aesthetic. I think the key differences are the Flaming Orange tail and throat, and of course, the little bit of orange fluff. This is the part that uniquely stands out. It could be an imitation of an egg sac. The fly works. Will it always be a success, probably not. It was luck that David brought it along, and we did attract cutbow when all else seemed to fail. If any one knows this beauty's real name and origins, please let me know.

MATERIALS



List of Materials:

- Hook - Mustad R75-79580 5XL streamer Sizes 8-12
- Thread - Flaming Orange 6/0
- Tail - Fly Hunter Fl. Fire Orange Saddle Hackle
- Egg Sack - Polypropylene Blood Orange to match the tail
- Body - Polypropylene Black
- Ribbing - Uni Mylar 3/64, #12 Gold/Silver (Silver side out)
- Throat - Fly Hunter Fl. Fire Orange Saddle Hackle
- Wings - Black Pheasant Tail
- Head - Black Thread

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Pinch the barb, place the hook in the vise and take the orange thread down to the bend. Take two Saddle Hackle feathers, align the tips with the dull sides together. Tie one to each side of the hook with the shiny side out. Feather should extend the full body length past the bend.



2. Tie in the Orange Polypropylene the length of the hook to keep a smooth body. The Polypropylene should flare around the hook and extending out just past the bend.



3. Return the Orange thread to the front of the body and tie off using the Black thread. Tie in the Mylar, with the Gold side out if using the Silver/Gold Mylar, and tie down to the bend.



4. Return the thread to the front of the body and take the Black Polypropylene and tie down to the bend keeping the body smooth.



5. Wrap the Black Polypropylene up to the front of the body with touching turns and tie off.



6. Wrap the Silver mylar with 5 to 6 wraps up to the thread and tie off.



7. Strip off about a dozen Orange Hackle Fibres and tie in a throat under the hook extending just past the point of the hook.



8. Strip off about 14 Pheasant Tail fibres and tie in a wing that extends just past the bend.



9. Whip finish a nice neat head, coat with Hard as Nails and your done.

Tight Lines & Good Luck!