

OSPREY FLY BOX

S.I.S.

contributed by
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I wish I could tell you how I came across this fly pattern but I honestly can't remember. I've been using it on and off for almost 20 years!

Many years ago during a pink year Craig Graham and I headed to the mouth of the Harrison to fish for the pinks from. I was using a pattern that was fairly successful but on the other hand Craig for some reason was not having much luck. I believe it was probably more about where he was located on shore and the crowds that restricted our ability to move around rather than the flies he was using.

We finally decided to leave because it was definitely a bit too crowded for our liking. As we headed home I remembered a spot that I had fished some years ago. Lots of room to cast and there was never anyone around. It wasn't too late in the afternoon and I thought to myself, who knows maybe with a bit of luck there could be some pinks for Craig and I to hook into...

When we arrived, the gentle flow of the Fraser showed no signs of moving fish. We said "what the heck let's make a few casts

anyway". I decided to put on this slim and slick looking fly (didn't have a name for it yet). As we were casting away with no signs of life, I suddenly noticed from the corner of my eye something breaking the surface. I thought to myself that it must have been my imagination but I decided to pick up the fly line and cast in the direction of where I thought I had seen a sign of life...and bang fish on!

Craig had also tied on the same fly, and as I played the fish, he casted in the same area and he hooked a pink right away! We kept fishing and landing pinks until the sky was painted with a beautiful glow orange, pink and crimson colours. Craig had his fill of pinks and I discovered a fly (that I happened to have tied the week earlier) to make it a go to fly for years to come and would also hook into many different species of fish. It was truly a day/evening to always remember.

As we drove home, we decided to name this particular fly, the S.I.S., short for the Strawberry Island Special

MATERIALS



List of Materials:

- Hook - Tiemco 9394 sizes 8 or 10
- Bead - Silver Cone 5/32"
- Eyes- Mirage or Plain Black Pupil 3/32"
- Wing - Polar Bear- Yellow, Pink & Magenta
- Flash - UV Pearl Krystal Flash
- UV Cure Cement

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place the silver cone on a de-barbed hook and start the thread directly behind the bead. Build up a small dam to prevent the bead from sliding back.

2. Clip a sparse amount of Yellow, Pink and Magenta Polar Bear hair and place in a hair stacker to align the tips. Hair should extend 1/2 the hook shank past the bend. Bind down on to the top of the shank.



TYING INSTRUCTIONS*..... continued*

3. Clip two strands of UV Krystal flash from the hank and tie down each side of the fly extending slightly past the Polar Bear Hair.

4. Build up a thread damp to fill the space behind the bead and whip finish.



5. Slight tilt the head of the fly down in the vise and apply a small amount of UV cure over the thread to fill the space behind the bead and create a smooth base for the eye. Use the UV light to cure.



6. Apply an eye to each side of the fly. Coat with UV cure and set the glue.



Remember to keep these flies sparse and tie them up with both the plain and Mirage eyes.

They work great for Pink Salmon and Cutthroat Trout in side channels and sloughs.

Tight Lines & Good Luck!