

The Osprey Flybox

"The .08"

By Ken Driedger

Just after my trip to the Bulkley this year with Frank DiGiovanni and Dan Cahill I received an email from **Ken Driedger** enquiring about the [Foamy Bomber](#). By coincidence Ken lives in Smithers which the Bulkley flows right through, as you can imagine he fishes the river extensively for wild steelhead and salmon. He works and ties flies for Oscars, one of the tackle stores in Smithers. Ken shares his proven pattern, the .08 with us this month.

"I was lucky enough to get some ink in Trey Combs' steelhead book a few years ago, and the steelhead fly I did up in '82 still swims just fine out there. It's called "The .08", as it came into existence in a rather hazy fog one Saturday night. Viva Wood's Navy rum..... I understand many flies were born in a hazy manner. The .08 is in good company then. I *know* I was well over, probably closer to .19, as I used plenty of priming fluid!!!!"

"At first glance, it is normally heavily discounted by other fishers and tiers....that is, until it is placed on the leader, allowed to get wet, and permitted to sober up out there. The front wing folds back over the body, and the hackle fibers splay a la wooly worm. The segmented woven body is pitched about by the current, showing the two colours during the swim. Then, the sports and the fish both like it!!"

"The invivable thread is Newey's. It comes in smoke, and clear. Unithread also puts it up. I used to use it all the time as my tying thread...it was cheap. You got 200 meters of Newey's for a buck. I use Unithread 6/0 these days. I bought 5 cones of 20,000 meters per cone. I still use the invisible stuff as ribs now and then.

"You can substitute pale pink chenille if you have that. Yarn is much cheaper. You build up the body for weaving using scrap feather, extra yarn, etc. The weave will not look right on a skinny hook."

For fancy ones, you can use 2 wedges of tapered tooth pick to give that taper look to the body, skinny at the back, fat at the front. Lash them to the hook, then build up on top of them. The store bought nymph forms were not suitable for the tie. I also used to use triangular wedges of poly plastic cut from marg. tubs, plastic pop bottles, etc.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials	
Priming fluid: 500 ml dark rum.	***Hence the name .08***
Hook:	Salmon TULE (turned up looped eye) sized 6 - 4/0 (Tiemco 7989, 7999; Mustad 36890)
Thread:	Unithread 6/0 in brown, claret, or purple.
Tail:	1/2-3/4inch of the tips of a marabou blood plume. Best guess.
Underbody:	Remainder of the blood plume, and extra bits of the weaving wool along the sides of the hook
Overbody:	Pink and black wool, parallel woven, black on top.
Hackle:	Domestic grizzly tip-tied and palmered, wet fly grade.
Rib: (Optional)	Newey's clear Invisible sewing thread or Danville's extra fine monofilament.
Wing:	Another tip of purple blood plume, a bit shorter than 1/2"

"Place the priming fluid in the tyer. Wait 10 minutes. Crack knuckles, and put hook in vise, with the pointy part in the jaws. If two vises are seen, use the one on the left. Find the thread, start it off. Try not to drop the bobbin too often; the floor is a long ways down."

Step 1

Tie in the tail, using the whole blood plume, and leaving the rest of the feather as an under-body builder. The parallel weave looks bad on a skinny body. Trim off at the start of the wire of the return loop, to leave room for the wool ends, hackle, and head.



Step 2

Tie in a folded hackle by the tip at the rear of the fly. If ribbing, tie in the bobbin of ribbing and let hang at the rear.

Tie in the wool at the hook eye along the sides, to make the body slightly wider. Run the thread back to the rear, lashing the underbody as you go. Ken recommends either cutting off the tying thread, or letting it hang with the ribbing at the back to keep it out of the way while braiding the body. I tried cutting it but then you have to tie it in again at the eye after the weaving is done which is difficult because you're holding 2 pieces of wool as well. Later I found that if I run the thread to the eye and half hitch to hold it in place it I could use my thread minder (the wire hootie that clamps to the vice) to hold the thread out of the way.



Step 3

For instructions on the parallel wave, you're probably better off going to www.flyangleronline.com.

If you're adventurous, take another belt of priming fluid then try to follow my instructions. I have a vice where you can turn the fly so it's on an angle so you can see it from the top which makes it a little easier.



Step 4

From the previous step, move the black wool over the back to the other side of the fly as shown. Bring the pink wool under the body and bring it over the black toward the eye of the hook.



Step 5

Now bring the black over the back the other way.



Step 6

Bring the pink under again and loop it up over the black toward the front again. I think of it as an “over (move the back material across), over and under (bring the bottom material over the back and under across to the other side), over, over and under, over, over and under.”



Step 7

The hardest part of the parallel weave is maintaining steady and equal tension on the two strands of wool or the “seam” where the two meet will not be straight. Continue the weave until you get to the loop of the eye and according to Ken “either run the uncut thread underneath along the pink body to the hook eye and tie off the wool; or re-establish the cut off tying thread at the eye and tie off the wool. It usually got cut off all the same, so I got into the habit of re-starting it.....Damn priming fluid, anyway.....”



Step 8

Palmer the hackle, folding it as you advance up the hook, as you watch it unwind for the 4th time.... damn priming fluid.... Tie off the hackle, and counter-rib with the mono if you used a rib.



Step 9

Prepare another blood plume, and tie it in as a mini-wing. The front plume will be in a near vertical position. Build up the head of the fly to a pleasing shape and proportion, whip and varnish. “NOTE: priming fluid may be increased, or decreased, or omitted at the wishes and whims of the tier.”



The fly is fished in typical wet fly fashion, out and over, with most takes coming about halfway through the swing. Early in the year, it fishes well in the top foot of the water column...and later in the year, as with most wets: down low.

The .08 has different personalities depending on hook style and size chosen:

- A normal 8 is either a Pink Floyd, or the drunk.
- A small iron is named an underage 8.
- A fancy flawless presentation tie is a party 8
- A spey 8 is a sp8.
- A huge 8 on a 4/0 or some such is a 5-day bender

Enjoy the flies.... and practise the weave..... it opens up a great world of trout flies in the smaller sizes.... dirty yellow on bottom, green or brown on top, creamy beige on bottom, reddish green/brown on top,etc.....

The .08 gives new meaning to the hackneyed expression: Tie one on!!!!

Be safe and remember, the water really does not care if you are in it, on it, or under it. Leave the priming fluid at home or in camp, or use it wisely and in moderation anywhere near the water.