

OSPREY FLY BOX

FLUORESCENT UMPQUA SPECIAL

by Warren Grisewood

A Fly Fisher's Tale

*Greetings fellow Osprey members
A nod and a smile to everyone
I'd like to share this tale with you
Because my name was drawn.*

*My favourite of all is the Umpqua fly
With which I caught my first steelhead
This particular fly is dear to my heart
However, tying them is something I dread.*

*Dread? This word hardly explains it. In fact, I must confess
Even though I've been a charter member since 1967.
Having successfully avoided tying flies these past forty years
Is this angler's idea of heaven.*

*Tying them, well that's a whole other kettle of fish
I just didn't have the knack for it.
My excuse is that my fingers are the size of sausages
And I'm sticking to it!*

*"What will I do? What will I do?" I'd ask while I paced.
The dilemma was always the same
Until the idea of trading skills occurred to me
So for tying my flies, I'd cut fellow fishing members' game.*

*This system worked well, I could smile once again
Until that fateful day
When my name was drawn out of the hat
To write an article for the Osprey.*

*I sit poised, pen in hand nothing. Not a thing.
The dilemma was almost unbearable.
So I reached for the phone, my daughter's number I dialed
And bartered a lunch date for this article.*

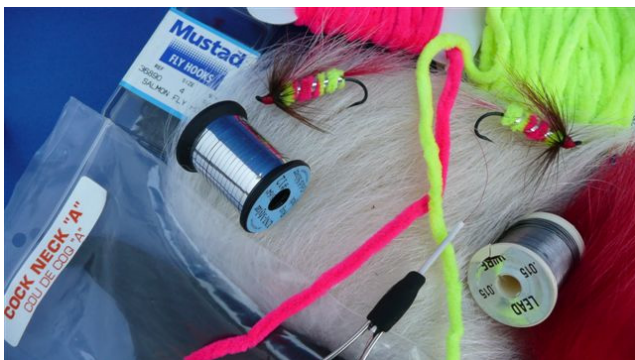
*So that is my tale, and now it is told
But I have a suggestion, if I may
If you find yourself faced with challenges in life
You might try to barter them away.*

The **FLUORESCENT UMPQUA SPECIAL** is a copy of the standard Umpqua. It's just tied in bright colors. It's design comes from Neil Light (*the same guy that designed the "California Neil" the beach pattern that's so popular with BC Coho fishermen*).

Rick Jones introduced me to this pattern years ago on the Squamish River. It sinks well and because of the hair wing and hackles, it has a good silhouette and movement in the water. Most of the fish taken on the Squamish by Rick and I have been on this fly.

There is nothing unique about the tie. You can throw it together on any size hook although I like a standard #4 Mustad. The fly should be fairly chunky when it is finished.

MATERIALS



- Hook: Mustad #4
- Thread: Bright Red
- Weight: Lead Wire or substitute
- Tail: Mixed 50/50 White and Red Polar Bear hair
- Wrap: Flat tinsel
- Body: Front & Back Third: Steelhead lime green chenille
Middle Third: Steelhead hot pink chenille
(Both colors ... the hotter the better)
- Wing: Mixed 50/50 White and Red Polar Bear hair
to end of tail
- Hackle: Full collar hackle of brown (*fairly long*)
- Head: Red thread.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Debarb the hook. Attach the red thread and form a thread base to the bend of the hook.

Tie in lead wire and wrap forward to front of hook. Wrap thread forward over the lead and tie off lead wire. Wrap thread back forming a cross hatch pattern over lead wire.

Mix 50/50 white and red polar bear hair and tie in the tail (*half the length of the hook*).



Tie in Flat Silver Tinsel.

Tie in the Lime Green Chenille.



Wrap Lime Green Chenille forward covering rear third of shaft. Tie off and clip.

Tie in Hot Pink Chenille and wrap forward covering middle third of shaft. Tie off and clip.

Tie in Lime Green Chenille and wrap forward to the eye of the hook. Tie off and clip.



Wrap Silver Tinsel forward to the eye of the hook. Tie off and clip.



Mix 50/50 white and red polar bear hair. Tie in a hair wing which extends to the end of the tail.

Strip the fibers off the butt end of a couple small brown hackle feathers. Attach the hackle feathers by the butt end and clip. Wrap the hackle forward to the front of the hook, forming a full collar. Tie off the feather and cut off the excess.

The Finished Fly



Finish off with a good solid red thread head. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Fluorescent Umpqua Special