

OSPREY FLY BOX

SIMPLE HOPPER

contributed by
Stuart Donald

I think I saw this pattern on Sport Fishing on the Fly. I thought it would be good for rainbows on a certain river in the Cariboo.

The first year I fished this river, I was using commercially tied foam terrestrial patterns, which came with conventional hooks. I was having trouble keeping hook-ups. I thought competition hooks would keep fish on. So, I went looking for some foam patterns to tie. I came across this hopper pattern, and I felt it would be relatively simple to tie, and it was.

I tried it out the next year. After some trial and error with presentation, I found they needed to hit the water with some drama and then stripped, a little aggressively, across the surface. The trout would veraciously hit them and stay hooked.



MATERIALS

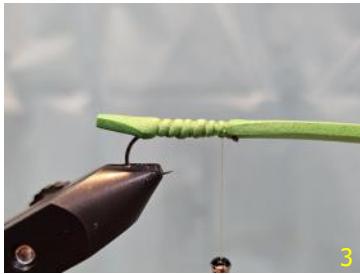


Hook:	Firehole 618 Size 10 2XL, 2XG , Competition foam/nymph hook
Thread:	Uni 6/0 Watery Olive (to match body colour)
Foam Body:	Green Craft Foam - 2 mm Green Craft Foam 5 mm wide - 8 to 10 cm long.
Dubbing:	Semperfli Kapok Dubbing - Sulphorea.
Wing:	Natural deer hair
Legs:	Silli Legs or equivalent. (Hareline Grizzly Barred Rubber Legs - Medium Florescent Yellow)

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Cut a taper into one end of the foam (about 6 or 7 mm), leaving a flat end on the wedge shank.



2. Place a hook in the vice lay down a thread base back to the bend.



3. Tie in the foam on the top of the hook from the back with the wedge tail extending back from the bend, tie forward and then back to the bend to bind the foam tightly to the shank.

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS***..... continued*

4. Wind thread back to rear of hook and twist on a dubbing noodle.



5. Wrap the dubbing noodle forward almost to the eye of the hook.



6. For the wing, stack a pencil size clump of deer hair and tie in behind the eye, with the even ends extending back just shy of the end of the foam tail



7. Trim the waste ends of the Deer Hair at a slight angle.



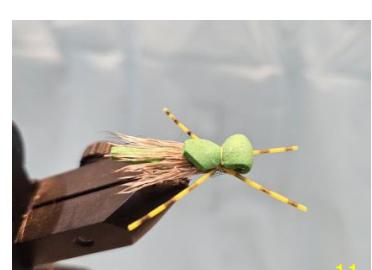
8. Fold back the foam to form a round head and tie in over the deer hair.



9. Trim the foam at a bit more than a third the length of the body and foam tail (*or half the shank*), and trim the end to form a 4 mm taper with a flat end.



10. Tie in a 5 cm length of rubber leg on the near side.



11. Now tie a second set on the far side. Trim the back legs even with the end of the tail and trim the front legs to about 2/3 the length of the trimmed back legs. Put a drop of crazy glue on the thread where the legs are tied in.



12. Finished Simple Hopper from the bottom.



13. And ... from the top.

Tight Lines & Good Luck!