



“THE HUMPY”

October 2007 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By Rich Trimble

MATERIALS

HOOK: #10—#16.

THREAD: Black. (You can use the same colored thread for the underbody and the head if preferred.)

TAIL: Elk Hair.

UNDERBODY: Either thread/floss, or my favorite, Wooly Nylon which is soft, stretchy and comes in many colors.

OVERBODY: Deer Hair.

WINGS: Deer Hair.

HACKLE: One Grizzly and one brown (furnace).

Most fly fishing historians credit Jack Horner, a Bay area fisherman, as the originator of an all hairwing fly, the Goofus Bug. The Humpy seems to have naturally evolved from Mr. Horner's creation. The Humpy can be tied with an underbody of many colors: Red, yellow and green being the most common. Some beginning tyers are intimidated by the Humpy. The proportions are the secret. Once you have figured out the proportions, it's just a matter of practice. During the past 20 years many versions of tying the Humpy have been developed to make the fly simpler to tie. Some have even tied the fly with a foam overbody. As with most things there are many ways to get the job done. The one I'm tying here is more or less tied in the original fashion.

Tying Instructions

1. (Photo 1) Begin the thread at mid-shank and tie in one and a half shanks length of elk hair for the tail (about 10-15 hairs for a #12 hook). The tail should extend one shank length beyond bend.



Photo 1

2. (Photo 2) To make things easier later on, tape the tail down to the vise with scotch tape.

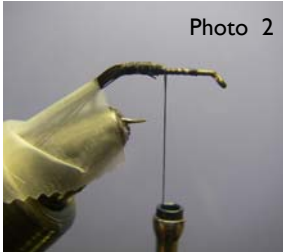


Photo 2

3. (Photo 3) Stack a bundle of deer hair (about the thickness of a 3-4 hook shank diameter) to even the tips. Measure the length of the bundle from the eye to the tip of the elk hair tail (two shank lengths). Tie in on top of the elk hair butts at mid-shank..



Photo 3

4. (Photo 4) On the butts tie in the color that you have chosen for the underbody and cover the butts from the tail to the front of the butts.

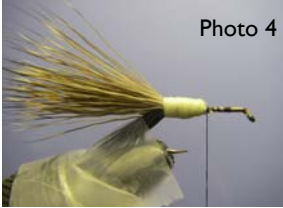


Photo 4

5. (Photo 5) Gather up the deer hair and pull tightly over the underbody (this takes a little practice) and keeping the hair on top, as much as you can, tie the hair down in front of the butts. If you've measured correctly, this should allow enough hair to make the wings the proper length. If the hair is too long, you can adjust it with more thread wraps forward. If the hair is too short, OOPS! It's best to tie another one!



Photo 5

6. (Photo 6) Now you can split the wings evenly and figure 8 to post them.



Photo 6

7. (Photo 7) Tie in two hackles of the appropriate size (one brown/furnace and one Grizzly).



Photo 7

8. (Photo 8) Wrap the hackles forward meshing them and whip finish.



Photo 8

Viola! The Humpy is a very good fly especially on fast flowing freestone streams!

“The Humpy”