



“POPSICLE”

January 2010 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By *John Daniels*

Originator: George Cook

The Popsicle is representative of the "Alaskabou" patterns developed by George Cook for Alaska. Used primarily as a steelhead pattern in the lower 48, the Popsicle can be tied any size, any color, and with or without weight. For smaller patterns, you will probably have to resort to putting the marabou in a dubbing loop, but for standard sizes, either marabou blood quills (aka "bloods") or standard quills should suffice. Bloods work best because their small stems palmer more easily.

Tying Instructions

MATERIALS

HOOK: TMC7999 #8-2/0

THREAD: 210 Danville Fire Orange

1st WING: Orange marabou blood quill w/ 2-3 strands pearl Flashabou

2nd WING: Florescent pink or red marabou blood quill.

3rd WING: Purple marabou blood quill.

COLLAR: Purple Schlappen.

1. (Photos 1 & 2) First step is to wrap a thread base back one third shank length from the eye, and tie in the first quill by the tip, just as you would a wet fly hackle -- i.e. stroke back the feathers to expose the stem, tie down concave side facing rearward. Now palmer the marabou forward with 4-5 turns, tie off, and trim away the stem. Add a few strands of pearl Flashabou (2-3 should suffice) and tie down on the far side of the hook, bring to the near side, and tie down on that side as well so the strands run laterally along the fly. Trim to the length of the marabou wing.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

2. (Photo 3) Next, tie in the florescent pink quill by the tip, and again palmer 4-5 turns of marabou. Tie off, and trim the tip. Repeat with the purple marabou blood, again palmer forward 4-5 turns or until you are about an eye's width from the end of the hook.



Photo 4

4. (Photo 4) Finally tie in by the butt a purple schlappen feather, make 2-3 turns of hackle for a collar, tie off, build a smooth cone shaped head of thread, and tie off. If you are in a hurry, you can finish with head cement, but you will get more classic look from a little epoxy.



Photo 5

You're
done!

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