

February Fly of the Month - The Humpy



The Humpy (aka: Goofus Bug)

The Humpy originated as a western fly. It does not represent anything in particular but has the remarkable ability to attract trout, steelhead, and salmon. It is tied in a full range of sizes from 2 to 22. The smaller sizes have been successful for trout in the east. The example below is tied on a size 12 Mustad 7957B hook.

List of materials:

Hook: Mustad #94840 or #7957B, Sizes 2 to 22.

Thread: Black, red, orange, yellow, or green, prewaxed 3/0 or 6/0.

Tail: Dark moose body hair.

Wings: Tips of the natural or bleached cream deer body hair used for the body.

Body: Tying thread with natural or bleached cream deer body hair tied over as a shellback.

Hackle: Brown, or grizzly and brown mixed.

Head: Tying thread.



Step #1: Select 10 to 12 stiff moose body hairs. Tie in the tail so it is two hook gaps long with the butt ends reaching to exactly the middle of the shank. The length is important as it is used later for a measurement when the body is tied in. Bring the thread to the center of the shank.

← **Step # 2:** Cut a pinch of fine textured natural deer body hair from the hide. The hair should be 1-1/2" long. Comb out the short underfur. Stack the hair so the fine tips are aligned. Pinch and measure the hair with the tips equal to the tail ends and trim the hair base equal to the hook eye.



← **Step # 3:** Now that the bundle is trimmed to length, move the hairs to place the butt end even with the middle of the hook shank and tie it in with the tips facing toward the tail direction.

Step # 4: Separate the deer body hair from the moose tail hairs and fold the deer hair forward. Tie it down directly in front of the under body. Make sure all of the hair is pulled tight and tied down on top of the shank.



Step # 5: Hold the hair tips tight between your fingers on top of the shank. Wind the thread forward to the middle of the front half of the hook shank. Raise the hair tips up and divide them into two separate and equal portions. Apply some criss cross and figure eight windings to separate into two wings. After setting the wings securely with thread, apply some head cement to fasten them permanently.

← **Step # 6:** Tie in two hackle feathers at the forward end of the body behind the wings.

Step # 7: Take the first feather and wrap two turns behind the wings, then a third wrap close against the back of the wings. Cross over on the far side as you complete that turn and continue winding with the next

turn close against the front of the wing. Continue with another two wraps in front of the wings and tie off the hackle with three or four windings of thread. Trim off the excess tip of the hackle material.

Step # 8: Wind the remaining second hackle in the same manner, moving through the first one with a side to side rocking motion to avoid winding the fibers of the first hackle down. Tie off the second hackle like the first one. Trim off the excess hackle material. Whip finish the head and cement.

For step by step photos, as well as previous Fly of the Month recipes, please visit our web site at <http://www.firelandsflyfishers.org> and click on Fly of the Month.

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