

## Fly of the Month

## The Dog Nobbler



Hook :- Wet fly 12-10-8 with suitable size dumbbell 'eyes' behind hook eye

Tail :- Generous bunch of marabou

Body :- Chenille

Rib :- Silver or gold wire

Hackle :- Palmered cock hackle ( optional )

There are some strangely named flies around and the Dog Nobbler is up there with the strangest of them. The fly and the name were originated by a Trevor Hornsby who liked to fish for the old and wise trout that lurked in the depths of Hampshire rivers. He called them dogs and when he caught one he killed it with his priest which he called his nobbler.

The fly proved to be successful and although devised for use on deep rivers has become a favourite on UK stillwaters. It is very similar to the woolly bugger.....another strangely named fly when you think about it..... with the main difference being the fact that the front of the Dog Nobbler is heavily weighted. Trevor weighted his by pinching and glueing on a split shot on which he painted eyes. These days most tyers favour dumbbell eyes or beadchain with a few turns of lead wire.

Start the fly by lashing the dumbbell eyes to the shank just behind the hook eye with plenty of figure eight turns. A touch of superglue on the turns of thread will stop the eyes rolling around the hook. Beadchain eyes look okay but, being hollow, are not really heavy enough so if you use those follow the figure eight thread with some figure eight lead wire and a few wraps of it behind the eyes.

Next lay your foundation thread from behind the eyes to the bend and tie in a generous bunch of marabou of about twice hook length then attach the chenille and ribbing wire. Take your thread forward to behind the eyes and then wind the chenille body forward and tie it off. If you are going to palmer the fly you now tie in the cock hackle and wind it back to the bend where you catch it with the ribbing wire. Snip off the excess hackle and wind the ribbing wire forward through the palmered hackle, trapping as few fibres as possible, and tie it off behind the eyes. If you are not going to have the palmered hackle still rib the fly with the wire to add a bit of flash. A dab of head cement and the fly is finished.

The Dog Nobbler is another of those flies which is just a pattern with no particular colours specified. There are multiple variations, one of the most popular being orange, but let your imagination run riot..... it's the action of the fly in the water that makes it a good fish catcher. The usual way it is fished is sink and draw, whereby you let the fly sink then give it a couple of pulls to raise it and then let it dive again. It dives with that long marabou tail wagging enticingly behind it.



Alan T.

