

## Fly of the Month

## The IOBO Humpy



Hook :- Typical Dry Fly hook #14 - 18

Thread :- 6/0 colour to match CDC

Body, back and wing :- CDC feather

I first came across this fly while speaking with Peter Broomhall a couple of years back. He referred to a gun caenid pattern he'd come across. It used one ingredient, a CDC feather plus thread. I forgot about the conversation until I found a brief article in a Fly Tyer magazine also extolling the pattern's virtues. This article prompted me to try the pattern, I mean how wrong could a heap of Americans get ?

Originally tied in 1996 in Pennsylvania by Jack Turner, the simple design belies its technical deviousness. The abbreviation stands for **It Ought to Be Outlawed**.

After wrapping the hook shank with thread, tie a single CDC feather just in behind the eye of the hook. The feather should be about 2½ times longer than the hook shank.

Wind the thread to the base of the hook shank and then carefully wrap the CDC feather back down the shank. Stroke the loose fibres towards the bend with each wrap. This will bunch the fibres beyond the hook bend.

When you reach the hook bend with the wraps, tie the fibres in place with a couple of turns of the thread. It should leave a "bunched" CDC fibre tail.

Bring the thread back up towards the hook eye with a few even turns.

Pull the CDC fibres up and over the body, forming a shell back, and tie off. Place a couple of wraps in front of the newly formed wing to encourage the fibres to stand up.

Cut the thread and trim the wing, if needed.

The stem of the feather can be stiff depending on the age or quality of the feather, so a couple of gentle wraps at the start will prevent splitting. Some instructions suggest tying the stem across the shank rather than perpendicular to help with the initial turns. I struggled a bit with this suggestion due to a limited coordination level but with patience and practice, found tying the stem in line with the shank serviceable.

The fly is best fished in slower water, typical caenid water. It may be more visible in faster flows, but I've only used natural CDC.

It has been successful on the Meander and Mersey, but not yet on either of the Esks or the Liffey.

A YouTube search for IOBO humpy will reveal some good videos guiding the technical aspects of the tie.

*Stephen Hill*

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