

Humpy (AKA Horner Deer Hair or Goofus Bug)

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



This month's pattern features an old classic, the Humpy. It is a pattern developed by Jack Horner, and was originally called the Horner Deer Hair. Later it was renamed the Goofus Bug, and even later still, became the Humpy. Over time it has become a very versatile pattern for fishing a wide variety of situations. Whatever you call it, this pattern catches fish!

It is not designed to imitate any specific insect. But what makes it unique, and effective is that it imitates many different types of insects on the water, from Caddisflies to Stoneflies and even terrestrials. It can be tied in many colors. In yellow, it might represent a hopper, in cinnamon the trout might confuse this fly for a caddis, and tied in Hot Orange, as I have demonstrated in the example pattern, it might be a Salmon Fly or October Caddis. It floats high on the water and can be fished right in the middle of heavy river current. But it also fishes well on lakes when skated to resemble a traveling sedge.

I tie this pattern in a non-traditional style. In the original, the pattern is tied by folding the hump, or deer hair over the abdomen of the fly back and forth eventually winding up with the tips facing forward to become the wing. I create the hump on this fly using the

deer hair tied in for the tail. This style makes getting correct proportions much easier, and I think it is an overall easier way to tie the pattern than the original.

Experiment with different sizes and color variations for this pattern. I will tie this pattern as large as a size 8 hook to imitate stoneflies and October caddis and will tie it down to a size 18 for small caddis. Colors I use routinely include: red, yellow, hot orange, olive, black, cinnamon and brown. I also vary the hackle from brown to dun, to ginger and grizzly. Come up with your own color variations and give this a try on your favorite Central Oregon stream or lake.

Humpy Materials List:

Hook:	Daiichi 1180 Size 14-18 or similar
Thread:	Hot Orange, 70 Denier, or other color as preferred
Tail:	Mule Deer
Abdomen:	Thread wraps covered with folds of mule deer from the tail
Wing:	Mule Deer
Hackle:	Whiting Farms Brown Dry Fly Saddle Hackle

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/8RWADScBJn4>

Experiment with this pattern during late summer and early fall. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Humpy pattern, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.