

# Hippie Stomper

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*Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner*

*By: Phil Fischer*



*Hippie Stomper Fly Pattern*

For this month's fly, I turned to Andrew Grillos' for inspiration and tied his best-known pattern, the Hippie Stomper. Andrew is known for tying innovative foam fly patterns and for assigning colorful names to them. The Hippie Stomper is a great example of this trait. This fly was originally tied for fishing the Gunnison River in Colorado but has been fished throughout the world since it was first tied. Its name conjures up a time gone by when hippies and other long-haired freaky people were not always a welcome addition in some rural trout waters. However, I think that now-a-days, many former hippies have become fly fishing addicts! Irrespective of the name, the fly is an excellent imitation for ants, beetles and hoppers that are so common and important in the summer and fall on Central Oregon lakes and streams.

The design follows some attributes of a Humpy pattern, but it has been adapted to be more durable with its foam abdomen. EP Fibers in the wing make it more visible, and the addition of legs makes it "buggy-looking". Also, the hackle is clipped short on the underside of this fly to allow it to ride low on the water's surface. But, like a Humpy, this fly really floats well and can handle heavy fast water and is often used as the dry fly in a dry/dropper application. It can be tied in a variety of colors to match black beetles, or

red ants, or even in pale yellow or tan to imitate grasshoppers. Or you can tie it in unnatural colors, like purple and blue, or whatever color you can conjure up. I tied the fly as the subject of this column with red and black to imitate to match the colors of some of our terrestrials in Central Oregon. Although the original pattern uses two layers of foam, I tied this version with only one layer due to using a small hook size.

While primarily designed to fish in moving water, I often use the Hippie Stomper pattern on our local lakes during summer. Trout can be very opportunistic taking beetles and ants on the surface, and I have had excellent success with this pattern on both Crane Prairie and East Lake.

Give this pattern a try this fall while terrestrial insects are still active in our area.

**Pattern Materials List:**

**Hook:** Firehole 718, Size 8-16

**Thread:** 140 Denier Ultra, Black

**Tail:** Natural Moose Body Hair

**Abdomen Flash:** UTC Holo Tinsel, Large Red

**Foam:** 2mm Black Craft Foam

**Legs:** Hareline Crazy Legs, Black/Red Flake

**Wing:** Enrico Puglisi EP Fibers, Polar Bear or White

**Hackle:** Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Grizzly Dyed Red

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/TGdU2gWFCb4>

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it to match some of our terrestrials here in Central Oregon waters. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Hippie Stomper 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](mailto:Philfischer@sbcglobal.net).