

On The Fly

January 2008

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: Midnight Sun

Hook: Standard salmon/steelhead, size 4-8.
Thread: Fluorescent Red.
Tag: Flat silver tinsel.
Tail: Orange hackle barbs.
Body: Fluorescent orange floss over flat silver tinsel.
Rib: Flat silver tinsel.
Wing: White marabou over a shorter bunch of white marabou, over a shorter bunch of mixed orange and yellow marabou.
Throat: Mixed orange and yellow marabou.
Collar: Rose-red hackle.
Head: Fluorescent red.



Tying Instructions:

- 1) Start the thread behind the eye. Tie in the tinsel on top of the shank and lay down a thread base over the tinsel to just above the hook point.
- 2) Reverse the direction of the tinsel and form a 1/8-inch tag. Let the tinsel hang.
- 3) Select a small bunch of orange hackle barbs and tie them in at the front of the tag. The tips should reach to the end of the bend. Trim the butts.
- 4) Tie on the orange floss and wind it forward in flat turns to the tie-in point behind the eye. Tie off and trim.
- 5) Wind the tinsel forward in 5 evenly spaced wraps to the tie-in point behind the eye. Tie off and trim.
- 6) Select a small bunch of white marabou and tie in the marabou on top of the shank so that the marabou tips extend to the end of the hook. Select another bunch of white marabou and tie it in so that the marabou tips extend to the mid-shank position. Select a small bunch of orange marabou and white marabou and tie it in so that the marabou tips extend to the end of the hook.
- 7) Select a small bunch of orange marabou and white marabou and tie it in at the bottom of the hook shank to form the throat such that the tips of the marabou extend to the point of the hook. Trim the butts of all marabou.
- 8) Select a rose-red hackle feather with barbs long enough to almost reach the hook point. Tie it in and wind it forward 3 turns to form the collar. Tie off and trim.
- 9) Form a neat tapered head. Whip-finish the thread and apply cement.

The Midnight Sun fly was developed as a winter steelhead pattern by Trey Combs. Designed to work well in discolored or high off-colored waters of spring, this pattern is perfect for Rogue River conditions. Trey is a recognized west coast steelhead authority and author of several books including *Steelhead Fly Fishing*.

TYING TIPS

Vary the hook size and fullness of materials to match water conditions throughout the season: more marabou for high water and sparse for low water conditions. Body, tail and wing colors can be changed to reds or purples. Give this fly a test flight and let me know how you do.