

Double-Layer Chernobyl Hopper

JD Miller, who guides for the Henry's Fork Angler fly shop in Idaho, showed me this fly several seasons ago. He said it would never leave my box during hopper season, and he was right. JD's version of the fly has proven itself irresistible to trout and is extremely durable. Both traits owe themselves to the fly's impressionistic appearance. A trout may key on the shape, segmentation, color combination, wiggling rubber legs, or the sparkle of the super glue that helps keep the fly from spinning on the hook. Unlike other hoppers the fly lacks any delicate materials that are likely to fail after a fish or two. As a bonus, it's a fast tie.

How To Fish

The Double-Layer Chernobyl Hopper should be fished like most other hoppers. It is most effective near grassy banks, particularly beneath undercuts where an unwary grasshopper might fall in, and it should be cast to land with a "splat," since real grasshoppers are ungainly. In slow water, an occasional twitch imitates a hopper trying to kick its way to shore.

Tying Challenges

The Double-Layer Chernobyl Hopper is an easy pattern to tie once you've figured out the proportions you like and have learned how to make even body segments. A coating of super glue on the underside of the body is crucial to keep the fly from twisting, but the brand doesn't matter.

PATTERN

Hook: #6-12 3XL nymph hook

Thread: 6/0 brown

Tail, Underbody, and Head: tan foam strip with five segments

Tail, Overbody, and Head (2): unsegmented brown foam strip

Legs: two pairs of brown rubber legs.

Indicators: two bright foam strips

Adhesive: super glue applied to the underbody and front and rear tie-in points after the fly is complete

Note: this fly is one popular color combination. Experiment with many others, especially on crowded or heavily-pressured water.

