

Fly of the Month: Moodah Poodah & Terrestrials...

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, PAST PREZ

It's summertime and the heat is on. You hear the crunch of dry leaves and branches underfoot as you approach the stream and the strange but oh so familiar clicking and buzzing of insects in the background. That means it's a great time to tie on a terrestrial especially since you can't see anything happening on the surface and you don't really want to plumb the depths. If it were my choice I'd pick a Moodah Poodah.

Yup, it's a really goofy name. Not sure how it got it but the one thing I know is that the silly thing works. It is fairly easy to tie, floats great, easy to see and fish absolutely love it.

I first used the fly a few years ago on the Upper Owens and Hot Creek during the Club's Brookie Bash. Three years ago while in Colorado for my nephew's wedding my daughter Nicole and I were fishing near the thriving metropolis of Hartsel in the South Park (yeah, really the same one as on TV and don't blink or you will miss Hartsel...) in Badger Basin before we got chased back to the car by a rather violent thunderstorm. However, before the lightning arrived we got several nice browns and rainbows on some size #12 black versions I had tied just before the trip. A few days later while I was wade fishing in 90°–100° temps on the Green River below Little Hole I again used a larger yellow and tan Moodah Poodah on a dropper with a bead head caddis pupae. The fish ate both equally until the heat drove me and my need for a beer back to the car.

The fly is typically tied as a smaller hopper or cricket pattern in black, yellow, brown or tan. I have also tied it in a green body version but heck, I think the sky's the limit here. How about a Purple Haze version? Some versions I have seen tied with the foam head tied on in a different fashion as the way I tie. Personally, I think that's a harder tie and while it may float a bit better using that technique, my version floats so well you won't notice a real difference and it may be a bit more durable.

So how can you go wrong with it? Simple, you can't...

Materials for Tying the Black Moodah Poodah:

- HOOK:** Daiichi #1160 in sizes 14 to 10; or Tiemco #2312 for Sizes 8 to 4
- THREAD:** Veevus 12/0 or (10/0 for larger); fluorescent orange
- TIP:** UV Hot Orange Ice Dubbing
- BODY:** UV Black Ice Dubbing
- RIBBING:** Fluorescent orange Krystal Flash
- UNDERWING:** Fluorescent orange Krystal Flash with Elk over
- OVER-WING:** 2mm black foam sheet
- THORAX:** UV Black Ice Dubbing
- LEGS:** Barred rubber legs; orange
- HOTSPOT:** Fluorescent orange and/or pink Trigger Point fibers



Instructions for Tying the Moodah Poodah:

1. Insert the hook in your vise and attach the thread near head space. Wind back to the bend of the hook and continue about 1/3 to 1/2 the way down. Apply a small amount UV Hot Orange Ice Dubbing to your thread and wind it onto the hook about 3 turns.
2. Attach a 4–6 inch length of fluorescent orange Krystal Flash to the near and low side of the hook. This is the proper location for a reverse wound ribbing. Apply UV Black Ice Dubbing to your thread and wind forward over the hook but leave yourself enough room for a largish thorax. Now wind the Krystal Flash ribbing in the reverse direction about 4 or 5 turns and tie it off.
3. Tie in about 8 to 12 strands of fluorescent orange Krystal Flash flat over the top of the hook. They should extend to the bend of the hook. Select a small bunch of elk body hair. Stacker to even up the ends and tie it in as you did the Krystal Flash and about the same length as well. I cut the butt ends of the elk hair so that only an 1/8 of an inch extends beyond my fingers. This means I don't have to grab and lift the butt ends afterwards in order to cut them away which loosens the thread wraps anchoring them. Apply a small drop of super glue (**NOT** UV resin—it's a coating; not a glue) over the butt ends of the Underwing.
4. Now the over-wing. For a size #12, cut a 3/16" wide by 3" long strip of foam. Next, cut a slight taper in one end on both sides of the foam to help tie it in. Place the foam on the top of the hook with the tapered end up against the butt ends of the underwing. Bind the over-wing down starting with some tight but wide spaced wraps starting at the back end and moving as close to the eye as you can possibly get. Throw the "head space" out the window—you don't need no stinkin' head space on this fly. Wind with close tight wraps back to the start point at the butt ends of the underwing.
5. Apply UV Black Ice Dubbing to your thread to make the thorax. Apply a lot of it! Wind forward to the eye of the hook and back to the starting point. The thorax wants to be thick and shaggy. I often use a normal dubbing noodle on the way forward and



then use split thread dubbing on the way back to achieve that end.

6. Fold the foam sheet back over the thorax and bind it down where the body ends and thorax begins. At this point I often whip finish larger flies before moving on to the legs and hot spot.
7. Cut a 3" length of rubber leg material and tie it in along the far side of the hook and another length on the near side. About 1/3 should be in front and 2/3 behind the tie in point. Pull the leg material up so that it is right underneath the over-wing. All of this is done on the exact same spot where you tied off the over-wing. Without stretching the leg material too much grab the ones in front together and cut them to an equal length. Do the same with the rear legs.
8. Finally, remove a small bunch of fluorescent orange and pink Trigger Point fibers—50:50. At the same spot where the over-wing and legs are tied in, place the Trigger Point fibers on top of the over-wing and tie them in. Now do one last whip finish and trim away the thread. Pull the Trigger Point fibers straight up and shorten them with one, straight horizontal cut of you scissors.

And hey, you're done! Now, go fish!