

Mr. Hankey

Mr. Hankey rides in the water at about the same level as a live swimming mouse...after all, mice swim – they don't walk on the water. The foam back keeps him on top and upright in the surface. His foam back has an added bonus of keeping a tally of trout eats, since the tooth marks are strong evidence of a productive fly. His rabbit fur body should be illegal in most states as it is as close to bait as you could get. His rubber legs wiggle in the water like an Olympic swimmer. His foam mouse ears and crystal flash whiskers are strategically placed to effectively catch anglers as well as fish.



Jeff Hickman knows rainbow trout. He spent a bunch of years guiding at Alaska West, and during that time he came up with a really popular mouse pattern called Mr. Hankey that's now available from Idylwilde.

During my summers spent guiding at Alaska West I always struggled with finding the right mouse pattern – none of the commercially available patterns suited my needs. Most were tied on an oversized, wide-gapped bass hook. The other problem I had with all of the commercially available mouse patterns was they all had a down riding hook point, and these flies commonly result in hook ups to the tongue of the trout. Since many of these northern resident rainbow trout are 12+ years old, friendly catch and release is mandatory to protect these amazing fisheries.

Thus spawned the idea of the upward riding stinger hooked mouse pattern – Mr. Hankey. This gave the ability to put a trout sized hook on a large fly and gave an added benefit of hooking fish that nip the mouse's butt safely in the upper lip.

Tying Instructions

- Pre-cut a Mr. Hankey-shaped piece of foam. I do not cut the shape of the ears until after the fly is finished.
- On a long shanked up eyed hook, use Kevlar thread to tie in a loop of 25lb Maxima Chameleon large enough to fit around a barbless number 4 Owner SSW hook.
- Use a thin strip of natural bunny hide with the fur trimmed as the tail.
- Wrap natural crosscut bunny strip forward half way up the shank and tie off. Do not trim the remaining strip.
- Tie in rubber legs on each side and pre-cut piece of 1/8" fly foam on the back, being careful not to cut through the foam with the thread.
- Fold the forward half of the foam back and continue to wrap the bunny strip forward towards the head. Tie off bunny strip and trim. Tie down foam to create his head.
- Tie in crystal flash on each side to create whiskers.
- Trim ears to shape, making sure they are even and not too large. Small ears are easier to cast accurately into tight mouse swimming holes.