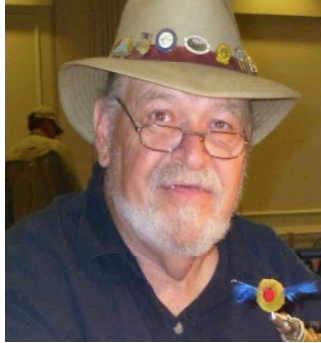


Smitty's Fly Box: Foxee Redd Clouser



It's a winner in the fresh or the salt

Bob Clouser and I were tying flies together at an Expo and he showed me this fly with fox fur. He said take a few of these and take them to the river on your next bass outing. Try them in the lakes along rocky bottoms where large numbers of crayfish find themselves a

frequent target of marauding largemouth. Try them the next time those wily brown trout turn up their noses at your best-presented nymph. Finally, cast this one in front of a tailing carp and hold on! ... *Don't forget* ... for saltwater, it's a sure winner for redfish!!! ... OK. Game on.



Smitty

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 33903 Kink-shank hook in #4 through #12 (Mustad CK74SSS #2 or #4 for salt)

Thread: Rusty orange, cream or brown 70 denier 6/0 (Flat waxed nylon for saltwater).

Belly: Cream or pink body fur from a red fox with the underfur removed.

Back: Dark mottled red fur from the back or shoulders of a red fox with the underfur left in. Tie the back shorter than the belly, not extending much behind the bend of the hook.

Flash: Sparse copper, mottled copper or rust-colored Flashabou. 2 strands for size 12, 4 strands for 10 and 8, 6 to 8 strands for size 6 and 4. Let the flash extend about ¼ inch beyond the belly fur (Go heavier on flash for Redfish).

Eyes: Painted lead dumbbells

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: The hook we'll use for this fly is a Mustad 33903 Kink Shank Popper Hook. I like this hook for Clouser-style flies because it makes placing the lead eyes easy and ensures proper proportions for every size fly from size 12 to size 4. The proportions start to wander from size 2 and up, so I use different hook styles for very large versions of this fly. Day in and day out the number 1 size to carry is a size 6 - that's the magic size for this fly! (#2 or #4 for salt).

Steps for Smitty's Foxee Redd Clouser continue on next page

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Step 2: Start by laying down a smooth thread base that covers both of the kinks in the kink-shank hook.

Step 3: The lead dumbbell eyes will fit right into that first kink just perfectly. And every time you tie the fly you'll have the same distance from the front of the lead eyes to the eye of the hook.

Step 4: The crayfish has a bilateral coloring with the dorsal surface dark and the ventral surface light in color. The bottom of a crayfish is often closer to cream in tone. To imitate this color and translucency, use the pinkish fur from the sides of a red fox pelt.

Step 5: Select a good clump of fox fur and clear out all the underfur, leaving only the soft, creamy guard hairs. Tie them in front of the lead eyes. Move the thread behind the eyes.

Step 6: Bind the belly down behind the eyes and put a whip finish into the thread to lock it. Move the thread to the front of the hook.

Step 7: Tie in two to eight strands of copper or rusty brown crystal flash so that it is just a bit longer than the belly.

Step 8: Select the fur for the back of the fly from the dark, well-marked fur from the shoulders or back of the red fox pelt. Clip a thick bunch and leave the underfur in.

Step 9: Clean and square the clump and tie it in front of the lead eyes.

Step 10: Form a neat thread head and whip finish.

Step 11: Cement the head with Sally Hansen's or UV Resin.

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