

The Cat's Whisker Booby

By Derek Young

This Devastatingly effective fly was made famous by Fly-fisher and Fly-tier Gordon Fraser of Melton Mowbray (Leicester) in 1987 when he released his book "Mastering the Nymph".

I believe it was designed for the sinking line and short leader approach by utalizing a "Floating "pattern on the lake/river bed to stop the fly catching on the bottom.

As the line is retrieved, the fly dives down, then floats, wiggles up depending on the length of the leader. Since then, the Booby has been used in various guises, such as the point fly on a floating line with a team of buzzers on droppers.(The Washing line method).

Originally Polystyrene balls were enclosed in stocking mesh to create the eyes, but now superseded by closed cell/ethafoam tubes, shaped with scissors to form 2 round eyes.

NEVER FISH A BOOBY STATIC ,as it will often result in a deeply hooked fish and it is so effective it is banned on many UK still-waters/lakes.



Dressing

Hook	Kamasan B175 Size 8-12. (Originally Longshank Size 10-12)	Tail	White Marabou (Original had feather fibre)
Thread	Flo Yellow Danvilles 6ought thread.	Wing	White Marabou.
Rib	None (Original had fine wire or nylon mono-filament rib).	Eyes	Closed cell foam/ ethafoam cylinders shaped with scissors. (Original had 2 poly-foam beads, encased in stocking mesh with figure of 8 wraps to separate beads).
Body	Flo Yellow Micro Chenille		



Step 1

Set the hook in vice (ping it), catch on tying thread and lay down a bed of thread, in touching turns down to bend of hook, to a position above hook point and remove waste tying thread.



Step 2

Return thread to the eye.



Step 3

Select a cylinder of booby cord that has been cut to size (same length as body) and “nibble” the foam away with a sharp scissors)...



Step 4

...along one edge (1st cut).



Step 5

Once again “nibble” end of foam to create rounded eye (2nd cut).



Step 6

Repeat other side.



Step 7

Advance the thread down hook shank (about 5-6 turns)...



Step 8

...and offer up foam cylinder ON TOP of hook shank.



Step 9

Place a couple of wraps of thread over the centre...



Step 10

...and pull thread down vertically.



Step 11

Twist foam cylinder through 90 degrees to hook shank and secure with figure of 8 wraps.

Tip: At this stage I put a dab of superglue on thread wraps which will stop "eyes" twisting around hook shank.



Step 12

Wind the thread down hook shank to bend.



Step 13

Tear off a bunch of marabou fibres...



Step 14

...and trim off the waste "curly" stalk fibres.



Step 15

Using "pinch and loop", catch in the marabou onto hook shank and bind down to eye.



Step 16

Return thread to bend (in front of tail)...



Step 17

...and back to centre, between tail and eyes.



Step 18

Prepare chenille by removing a few fibres on the end...



Step 19

...and catch in on top of hook shank.



Step 20

Wet marabou, with finger and thumb, (this helps keep marabou under control and out of the way), and bind down the butt of the chenille, returning thread to foam eyes.



Step 21

Wind chenille (in touching turns), up hook shank, winding away from you (ie in same direction as tying thread), and secure.



Step 22

Trim excess chenille by cutting (using tips of scissors) between the foam eyes.



Step 23

Put in a few more figure of 8 wraps to ensure it is all secure.



Step 24

Tear off another bunch of marabou fibres, trim, wet fibres and tie in tips facing rear and bulk of marabou facing forward, between the foam eyes.



Step 25

Remove excess marabou "stalks" ...



Step 26

.and pull marabou to rear.

Tip : Tying in this way "kicks" marabou upright so when retrieve stops the marabou pulses and pops upright giving additional movement.



Step 27

Secure with figure of 8 wraps...

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Step 28

...and move tying thread in front of foam eyes.



Step 29

Use finger and thumb to pull back foam eyes...



Step 30

...and whip finish.



Step 31

Remove tying thread and varnish whip finish.



The finished fly



Reverse viva
(Good at Llyn Clewedog)



White Fritz
(A booby vers. of my secret weapon)

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