

Cats Whisker

By Derek Young

A modified "Tadpole" type dressing, devised and credited to David Train of Swindon in the mid 1980's.

In Bob Church's "Guide to Trout Flies", Bob states, "To stop the wing looping round the hook shank, David added 4 White Cats Whisker, shed by his pet cat, hence the name".

I seldom have a problem with the wing, but to aid stopping the tail wrapping around the hook shank, I put a couple of thread wraps "under" the tail to "kick it up".

Fish it as a single fly, or as the point fly in a team. It is an all round, extremely successful fly through out ALL the seasons on a Floating, Intermediate or a Slow sinking line.

Best retrieves are long erratic, Interspaced with short, pulls giving "Darting movements" to the fly.

David tells me his fly holds the record for taking the most and biggest fish at many of the fisheries he's visited. David, many thanks for creating such a successful fly as its caught me 100's of fish.



Dressing

Hook	Kamasan B800 size 6 to 10 (Longshank) or as a mini lure B175 size 10 to 12.	Wing	White Marabou.
Thread	Black 6 ought Uni thread.	Rib	Fine Oval tinsel (in the step by step I have used fine silver wire).
Tail	White Marabou.	Head	Large chain bead eyes.
Body	3 inches of Flo Yellow Chennille (or Lime Green).		



Step 1

Set hook in vice, 'ping' it and catch on a few turns of tying thread. Remove the excess thread.



Step 2

Lay two balls of chain on top of hook shank...



Step 3

...and bind down onto hook shank with figure of 8 wraps, ensuring eyes are NOT twisted to hook shank and are in line and balanced.

TIP: At this stage I add a little super glue to the wraps.



Step 4

Continue tying the thread down the hook shank to a position above the hook point.



Step 5

Pull off a few strands of white Marabou. Wet your fingers and 'roll' the marabou between them.



Step 6

Using the 'pinch and loop' technique, bind the Marabou onto hook shank. Open turns are ok at this stage.



Step 7

Run the tying thread back down hook shank to tail, continuing to bind down the Marabou.



Step 8

Wet your fingers and apply to tail, then lift the tail and put a couple of wraps under tail.

TIP: This will help to put a stop to the marabou wrapping around hook when fishing the fly later.



Step 9

Catch in 3 inches of fine silver oval tinsel, binding it down to hook shank, (full length of body) and return tying thread to tail.



Step 10

Prepare Flo Yellow Chenille by exposing the core.



Step 11

Catch in the Flo Yellow Chenille and return tying thread up to chain bead eyes.



Step 12

Wind the chenille, in touching turns and in the same direction as tying thread, up to chain bead eyes. Secure with half-hitch or whip finish.



Step 13

Remove excess chenille.



Step 14

Wind the fine silver oval tinsel in open turns in opposite direction to Chenille up to chain bead eyes. Secure with whip finish.



Step 15

Trim the excess oval tinsel (if using wire, agitate, wiggle, rock the wire until it snaps). DONT cut wire with your expensive scissors as this will damage them.



Step 16

Prepare another bunch of white Marabou, as you did for the tail.



Step 17

Using 'pinch and loop' technique to catch on the white Marabou behind the chain bead eyes, so it is the same length as the tail.



Step 18

Remove the excess Marabou in front of eyes. Bind down with tying thread and using figure-of-eight wraps, fill in the gap between the chain bead eyes with tying thread.



Step 19

Whip finish in front of the chain bead eyes and remove the tying thread. Apply varnish to the whip finish and the wrappings between the eyes.



Step 20

The finished fly



Other side.



Front view.



Under side view.