

Rob Denson's trout fly of the month

Hare-Hog



Hook Size 8-12 Kamasan B175
Thread Black UTC 70 denier
Body Black & Gold UV straggle
Wing Several bunches of hare body fur tied Hog style **Hackle** Black hen
Cheeks Jungle cock splits



Rob Denson has fly-fished for trout for 25 years, visiting all four corners of Britain and Ireland, combining his love of fly-tying, photography and a rolling wave.

IF LAST month's Pearly Dabbler was an entrée to the fry season, then this month I bring you the main course. The fry in our stillwaters are getting fatter as we speak. Many, especially the larger "silverfish" species, have now reached such a size that just one fish can represent a significant proportion of a trout's daily intake, if not a couple of days'. A good day's hunting, though, will often produce several fry for a trout, as witnessed by many of us when cleaning autumn fish.

Young bream are often the largest amongst post-mortem findings, providing some serious calories and nutrition. Rutland and Grafham contain copious amounts of bream (my best adult

to date taken on fly being 10 lb from Grafham on a Claret Dabbler Booby!) and their youngsters, so larger fry patterns will pay dividends, especially at this time of year. The bream fry of Rutland and Grafham were the inspiration for the Hare-Hog, and it is now a regular on my cast on late back-end visits to both.

My original aim with the Hare-Hog was to match the colours and bulk of bream fry, and introduce a little movement, yet somehow keep the fly "competition legal" (International competition rules dictate that flies should be no longer than $\frac{15}{16}$ of an inch). Mink was the first choice and it scored well on all three criteria. It's not a particularly

easy task, however, to utilise mink on a size 10 hook, and keep it "legal". Instead of tying the mink in Minkie or Zonker style, the solution was to tie in the mink in bunches - as if one were tying a Hog - along the body of the fly. This approach ticked all the boxes for me, bulking up the fly nicely, yet also getting the best out of the mink in terms of movement. The colour, though, wasn't exactly what I was looking for, the natural mink being a little monotonous and limiting, I felt. Hare body fur came to the rescue - mobility, bulk and natural colour a little more akin to the subtle golds and browns found in bream, roach and other small silverfish.

The fly's first outing was on Grafham, and strangely enough, the smaller sizes actually worked best - size 10s, and I even managed to fit all the dressing on a size 12, which was equally productive.

The following seasons have shown the Hare-hog to be a steady performer on most lines and in most leader positions, although fished singly, on a floating line, it is hard to beat when genuine fry-feeding is taking place. Cast into the boils as fry fizzle on the surface, and be ready. Fishing for fry-feeders is rarely, if ever, a case of chuck it out and pull it back. Fry like sanctuary, and that sanctuary is invariably found close to the shore in the shape of weeds, rocks, jetties and sunken fences. The trout know this, and it's just a case of finding the fry. We know this, and it's just a case of finding the trout... and choosing a fly. Try the Hare-Hog.

TYING TIP

Working from the rear forward, tie in a slim bunch of hare body fur, sloping to the rear, then cover the base of the hare with a couple of turns of straggle dubbing. Repeat the process about five or six times, depending on the thickness of your bunch.



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