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Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : First Clouser

Re: First Clouser

Author: : wbranch

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URL:

Overall a very fishable first attempt Clouser. As a couple guys have said tying any fly is very subjective and whatever "rules" are in place is just meant to be a starting point for you to deviate from.

I tie dozens of Clousers every year and I like to set my eyes back about 1/4" from the eye of the hook. Maybe I'm just not a good tier but if I have the dumbbell eyes set closer than that my head comes out looking very bulbous and not at all appealing. I like tapered eyes and glossy heads.

I don't tie very many color variations of Clousers as over the years I've found the ones that catch the most trout or smallmouth. For trout I tie only three colors; blue over white, gray over white, and all white. All with various kinds of silver flash in the middle. I use various eye weights to depending on the water depth and how I want to fish the fly for various circumstances.

For smallmouth I tie all yellow with gold flash, yellow over chartruese with gold flash, gray over white, and brown over green over white to imitate a baby smallmouth. Sparseness is good but often my flies are probably too heavily dressed. For hooks I prefer Mustad micro barb S71SZ-34007 in sizes #1/0 to #6.

You can see from the picture that my Clousers are by no means "sparsely" tied yet they catch a heck of a lot of trout and smallmouth. So as I said initially the "rules" surrounding fly tying are not set in concrete. Appearance of the fly is not nearly as important as it's effectiveness! It can look like crap but if it catches fish consistently then I gues beauty is truly in the eyes of the beholder!

I do get quite a few "short" strikes and if they continue to take short I have tied some of the specific trout colors with up facing stinger hooks to get those short strikers. Funny thing about the flies with the stinger hooks is I always forget they are on the hook and I get pricked more often than not. I've had to crush the barbs on the stinger hooks to avoid burying a barbed hook into my finger.

**Attach file:**

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 **Clousers5.JPG** (128.00 KB)



 **White Clousers.JPG** (474.72 KB)

