

# Northwest Fly Tying

Chartreuse Striker/By Glen Zinkus



## What was that?!

It felt like a submarine took my fly and peeled all the line and much of the backing off my old Fin-Nor reel before I realized something needed to be done, and done quickly. So went my maiden drift with the Chartreuse Striker.

A few chinook seasons ago, this fly originated in the vise of Alpine, Oregon's Norm Domagala. Chinook salmon seem to like chartreuse—a preference reflected in the many chartreuse patterns designed for salmon—and the Chartreuse Striker proved its worth just last season, becoming the hot fly in my arsenal. Most avid chinook anglers have boxes full of different fly patterns, and Norm and I are no exception, but day in and day out, this fly has been so consistently productive that it really seems to be all we need. Norm devised the Chartreuse Striker with Oregon's Lower Rogue River fishery in mind, but that has not kept us from successfully using it on many rivers north of the Rogue.

Norm built this fly to hold up to repeated hookups and all-day use. The Gamakatsu T10-6H salmon hook is both sharp and stout, and a heavy hook is essential for some of these monsters—chinook frequently exceed 20 pounds, sometimes double that. Norm chose materials that would pro-

## Materials

- Hook:** Gamakatsu T10-6H  
**Thread:** Chartreuse Ultra Thread 70  
**Tail:** White Hareline Baitfish Emulator Flash (bottom) and chartreuse Hareline Bunnybou or mink Zonker strip  
**Body:** Chartreuse Enrico Puglisi short-fiber streamer brush  
**Hackle:** Chartreuse Whiting Spey hackle  
**Collar:** Ice Pearl SLF Prism  
**Eyes:** 3/32-inch red adhesive eyes  
**Head:** Chartreuse thread  
**Coating:** Tuffleye over head/eyes, then head cement

vide ample motion in the water, making the fly look lively. Its movement, color, and flash combine to grab the attention of predatory salmon. Bunnybou and mink strips are even softer and more mobile than rabbit strips. And for some reason, the red eyes, secured with Tuffleye finish, really seem to appeal to chinook.

This fly imitates baitfish, and while Norm designed it for chinook salmon, a good baitfish fly is a good baitfish fly: try it in different waters, fresh or salt, where other species of predatory fish feast on baitfish.

For chinook in tidewater, fish the Chartreuse Striker on a sinking shooting head, type 2 through 6, depending on water depth and current speed. Use a loop-to-loop connection between the heads and a running line so you can quickly change heads as conditions change or as you move to different areas. Tidewater salmon fishing is a cast-and-retrieve game: let the line and fly sink, and swing across the current while stripping in line. On rivers, the usual approach is the down-and-across swing, though don't be surprised if a salmon hits as you strip in line preparing for the next cast. Try the Striker—as its name suggests, it may well increase the number of strikes you get from these notoriously lock-jawed fish.

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**Step 1:** At the midpoint of the hook shank, secure a length of Baitfish Emulator Flash twice the desired tail length, fold the material back, and tie off.



**Step 4:** Attach the hackle by its tip, and wrap the feather forward, stroking the fibers back as you tie. Keep your fingers damp while wrapping. Work gently with the hackle to prevent breakage.



**Step 2:** Attach the Zonker/Bunnybou strip by its tip (first strip away the fur from the tie-in section of the skin so it secures better to the hook). The length of the tail should be no longer than the length of the hook shank. Trim the end of the tail to a point to provide a more polished look.



**Step 5:** Use just a pinch of the clear Prism and tie across the center of the fibers; pull the front fibers back and tie off. (Keeping your fingers moist with a bit of water helps sweep the fibers back.)



**Step 3:** Tie in the EP short-fiber brush over the wrapped portion of the tail and wind the brush forward.



**Step 6:** Adhere the eyes to the sides of the head and apply a coat of Tuffleye cement, rotating the fly in the vise for even application. Coat the Tuffleye with a hard head cement.