

The "ART" of innovation.



Modern improvement needs new materials.

Creating is simple, takes flyfishing to a higher level.

The wobble fly.

Created by: Martie van den Brand

wobblefly@gmail.com

- **Index:**

- Wobble fly, A new concept.
- Finding the secret.
- Tarpon off the lowlands.
- Pike.
- Tying description the wobble fly.
- Photographs wonderful wobble flies.
- Materials.
- Facts.
- Friends.

Wobble fly. A new concept in fly fishing. By Martie van den Brand.

Introduction.

The story behind this magnificent fly started several years ago, when I was regularly fishing one of Holland's large trout reservoirs. In those days flies were not the only lures allowed and I often saw a few lads fishing wobblers and plugs. Despite my efforts I never did as well as they did. The wobbler gang always seemed to catch more and bigger fish than any fly fishermen, which after some time arose my curiosity. Why did wobblers always catch more and better fish? Was it the shape, the movement, the size of the plugs? Would it be possible to achieve the same results by designing a fly that would swim like a wobbler? I was unsure where to start, but I felt inspired and set myself to this task.

First experiments.

Pretty soon I had figured out the rough design. It incorporated the main elements of wobbler design: a bib, to give the wobbler its wobbling movement, and the foam body to keep it at the desired depth. The ideal spoon shaped bibs I found, came from a plastic soft drink bottle, but it was not an easy job cutting them in the desired shape.

The first experiments could begin and were of course done at the large trout reservoir mentioned above. It is Lake Oostvoorne, a big brackish lake (used to be a bay of the North Sea). Trout (mainly rainbows) are stocked annually at around 20-25 cm, but they grow on quickly and reach lengths of over 80 cm. Now this may sound like a real fishermen's tale, but the very first occasion I tested my small wobbler designs, I caught a fish of 84 cm weighing around 10 lbs. And it was not just beginner's luck either, for over the following four sessions nine more big rainbows were landed varying from 76 to 81 cm. This was a real confidence booster, although there were still some problems with the design to be fixed. The fly wobbler had to be fished very slowly or it would unavoidably rotate around its shank and twist the leader. But even with this limitation the small fly wobbler kept doing its job on still waters and reservoirs.



Finding the secret.

Over the years I experimented with a lot of different designs to get the problem of the undesired rotation fixed, most of which failed for one reason or the other. The inspiration for the essential aspect of the fly (the bent hook) came from reading articles of English carp fishermen who achieved better hooking results with bent hooks. This got me thinking and I tried bending the hook shank in varied ways, from a 10-15 degrees bend about a quarter to a third from the hook eye, to a more even arch so the hook resembled a giant shrimp hook. This change in design proved to be the secret I was looking for. At once the problem of rotation was solved.

By bending the hook, most of the hook mass is lowered below the centre of gravity, which helps to keep the fly running upright when retrieved, even in a strong current. Just like a Rapala wobbler, which is kept in its position by the weight of the hooks.

Testing time.

Shortly after this discovery I was on a fishing trip at a beautiful well known Southern German river. There were quite some big trout in the river but I noticed only local fishermen with their exceptional knowledge of the water were able to catch these. Of course I could not resist to try the tiny fly wobbler. A little nervous I tied on the new improved design on the leader and cast it downstream to a big shadow. When I was stripping the fly slowly towards me I could feel the movement of the wobbler vibrating the tip of my rod. Within seconds I had a violent take, and managed to land one of the biggest fish ever caught on that particular water. I was very pleased and satisfied, the fly finally worked perfectly.



Tarpon of the lowlands.

Over the last five years a new species of fish has emerged in the Dutch rivers. It is the *Aspius aspius*, commonly known as asp. Originating from Eastern Europe (Danube river system) it has migrated through recently dug canals into the Rhine system. The asp is a predatory whitefish that can reach a length of over one metre. It is a very fast and strong fish and the first run of a big asp can be almost as exciting and violent as a hooked tarpon. Even in appearance it looks a bit like a tarpon, if you are willing to see it, so I nicknamed it 'tarpon of the lowlands'.

Initially the asp were only caught occasionally by zander fishermen. This is probably why they got the reputation of being hard to catch in general, and especially on fly. But hard to catch does not mean impossible: I am convinced that, if you put in enough time and effort, coupled with confidence and a certain water sense, almost any fish can be caught on fly. And, sure enough, after a while we began catching them on fly, though never in any numbers and not very consistently. Until, you guessed it, I tried the new-and-improved wobble fly. A few experiments with colours and sizes brought about some consistently successful variants. Over the last two years I have managed to catch about 150 asp varying in size from about 40 to 104 (!) cm.



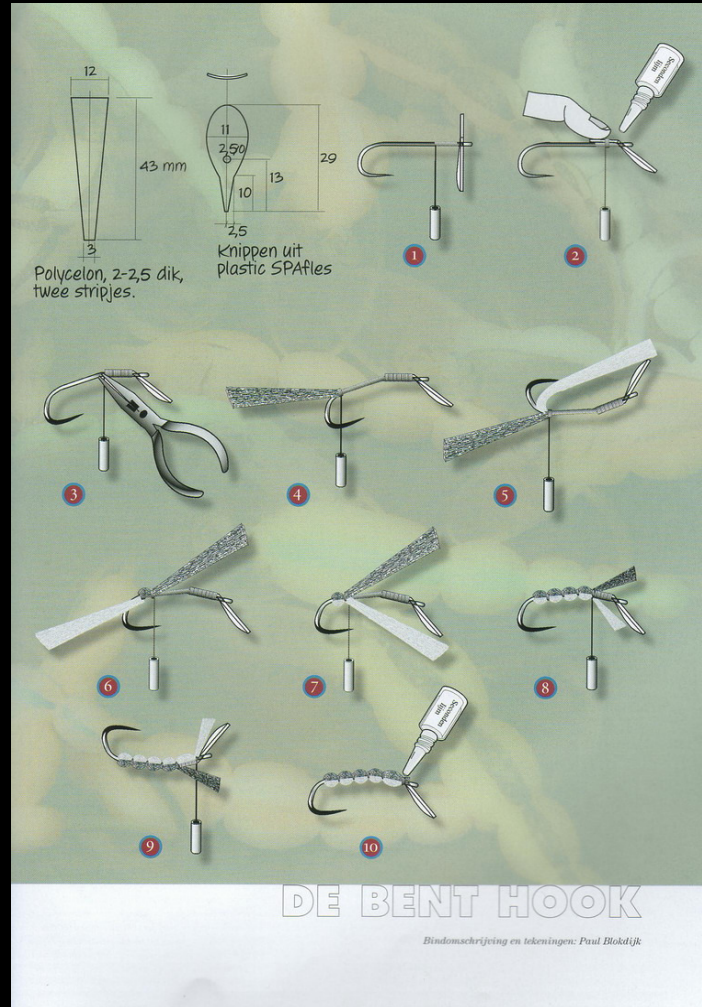
Pike.

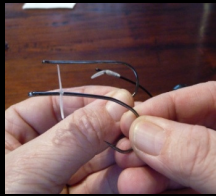
One of my friends is a truly fanatic pike fly fisher. He used to tie his streamers with a lot of bucktail and other natural materials, but often complained about the problems he experienced casting these big soaked flies. Another friend suggested I would tie him a big but very light wobbler fly. The biggest pike hook I know of is the Tiemco 9/0P. I bent the hook and I made a very nice smooth body of fly foam with a slightly different shape of spoon in front. The design works well for him, both in improved casting and pike catches, and he now uses the fly wobbler almost exclusively.



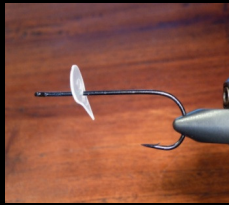
The biggest pike I ever caught (33 LB)

Tying description the wobble fly





Make sure that you bent
The hook in right position
For max downforce gravity.



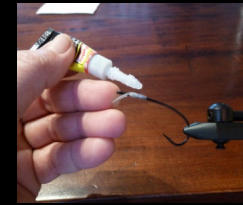
flip over the wobble blade
on the hook shank, with the
Curved side to the hookeye



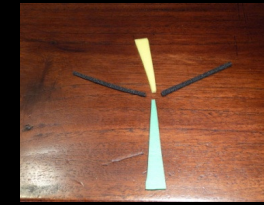
wrap some thread around
the shank for max grip.



push the blade to the
Hookshank, and fix it
with thread



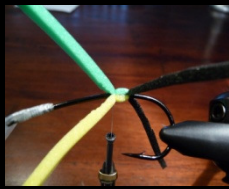
make sure that the blade
is in right position, and
give a drop of superglue



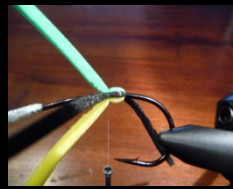
cut V shaped foam for a
nice tapered body. 2 large
for bottom and top. And 2
for side striping



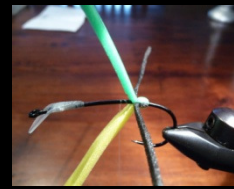
Tie the bottom and top
Segment, then the side
Striping



flip over the foam and
secure it with some
whiping



the same with the Side
striping



now your first segment
is in place



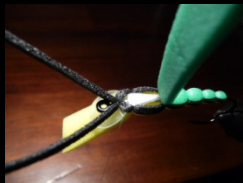
repeat this in four seg-
ments. Nice in shape



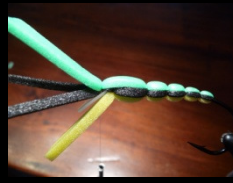
first secure bottom to
this point



Side striping on both
Side secure with thread



and tied off both
behind hookeye



tying off top segment and make sure thread is be-
tween top sement and upper wobble blade



cut off bottom foam and
superglue for positioning



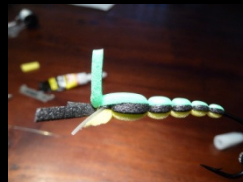
trim with razorblade
a nice shape



Give top segment some
Superglue



and push it backwards



cut it in a nice shape



and your wobble fly is
created

I hope that you enjoy the tying
tour. Your imagination will create
A lot more wonderful wobble
flies.
Martie.

- Some photographs of wonderful wobble flies.



My treasure

- **Materials.**

- Thread: uni thread in different colors size 6

- Wobble blades. They are manufactured by Hopkins and holloway. And distributed by poseidon for europe.

- In the USA is Cabelas the place to be.

- Foam:

- loco foam of metz wil do the job. It will give the fly that extra you are looking for. Most of my flies are tied on the bottom and the side striping with loco foam. On the top I use regular soft foam that can buy in many shops. But if you want the foam I use, please contact poseidon(see on list friends).

- Hooks:

- tiemco 9394 size 2/10 for the smaller wobble flies

- For the larger ones I use size 4/0- 6/0 just regular hooks of all different kind of brand. Make sure that you bent the hook in your vise/pliers. Small size hooks have to bent just behind the end of the wobble blade(4/8 degrees). Large sizes have to bent more like a gigant shrimp hook.

Facts.

- When fishing the wobble fly, make sure Always use the loopknot(Rapala knot) for maximum wobble movement.
- The reason that I build this site was easy as clear. I have met so many people in the past for how to tie the wobble fly, and what you can expect about the tying of the fly.
- I hope that you have lots of pleasure while tying your creation off this magnificent fly.
- In many flyfishing shops all around the globe you can buy the wobble fly blades, if not please contact me on wobblefly@gmail.com

- If you are interested to buy some of my own tied flies, please contact me.
- I can also give some workshops on how to tie the wobble fly, and if you would like I will take you to the riverbank for guiding and catching the asp.
- If you have any questions at all, please let me know. I will try to answered it.

- Martie 'the wobble fly'

- Friends.

- Kajs flyfishing

www.kajs-flyfishing.nl

- Poseidon

www.poseidonflyfishing.nl

- Hopkins and holloway

www.hopkinsholloway.co.uk