

### Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

#### Bold New Ideas – European-Style Nymphs

Czech Nymphing? Polish nymphing? Spanish, or French Nymphing? Why would anyone want to “corrupt” the art and beauty of flyfishing into some competition for fish numbers? Quite simply -Because it produces fish. Cabela’s and Bass Pro Shops are filled to overflowing with a vast array of fishing tackle all designed to catch the fish of your choice under almost any circumstance. The bottom line is that everyone is free to pursue whatever fish however they like -within the law. What is important to remember is that we can generally learn something from all of them. Our July speaker, Randy Hanner of Fly Fishing Team USA, fishes competitively all over the world and brings these European methods home to Missouri. He chooses to fish this way because it works. If you look at his flies, however, they are a blend of old and new.

Think back to tying styles of Frank Sawyer, Polly Rosborough, Sylvester Nemes, and Chuck Fothergill. Their flies were compact, sparse, and suggestive. Granted, they lacked the modern materials we enjoy today, but their flies were quick to tie, used four or fewer materials, and were seldom of display-quality. These “new” flies, too, are sparse, compact, and easy to tie but for a different reason; compact flies sink faster. With the addition of lead and/or tungsten beads, they sink really fast and stay in the strike zone for the entire drift. These four fly patterns were tied by Randy at the July meeting and are great examples of the European Nymphs used in competition fly fishing.

##### Vladi (Condom) Worm

Hook: Dohiku Streamer Hook or Daiichi #1870 Swimming Nymph Hook size 6-10  
Thread: White Monocord with Florescent Red for contrast band at thickest part  
Weight: Lead wire on back two-thirds of hook  
Body: Your favorite brand of lightly lubed condom – Randy prefers Crown brand – Cut into 6 strips  
Flashback: Shrimp Pink or Pearl sheet cut into 1/8th inch strips under the last layer of latex  
Ribbing: 4X Tippet Material

##### The Butter Face

Hook: Dohiku Standard Nymph Hook or TMC 3761 size 12-16  
Thread: 8/0 Red  
Weight: Gold or Copper Tungsten Bead  
Tail: Brown or Ginger Hen Hackle  
Body: Mottled Turkey Tail Segment  
Ribbing: Red Flashabou and Copper Brown wire  
Thorax: Dark Dun CDC fibers dubbed on

##### Polish Woven Nymph

Hook: Dohiku Scud/Pupae Hook or TMC 2457 size 10-14  
Thread: 8/0 White  
Weight: Copper or Gold Tungsten Bead  
Body: Two Strands each Chartreuse Floss and Green Floss woven with the darker color on top  
Thorax: Black Squirrel Dubbing

##### The Frenchie

Hook: Dohiku Standard Nymph Hook or TMC 3761 size 12-16  
Thread: 8/0 Red  
Weight: Gold or Copper Tungsten Bead  
Tail: Pheasant Tail Fiber Tips  
Body: Pheasant Tail Fibers  
Ribbing: Reverse Wrapped Copper Wire  
Hot Spot: Fluorescent Red Floss



The basic theme behind the new European Nymph technique is to fish two or more heavy, compact flies deep in the water column while keeping constant contact with them (no strike indicators). Back in the day, this was considered "high sticking. As with anything, this is yet another tool in your arsenal. Competitive fly fishing may be completely revolting to you, but fly fishing is about learning, problem solving, and creativity. If nothing else, simplify your fly tying and give these patterns a try. The hooks listed are currently available through [www.performanceflies.com](http://www.performanceflies.com) but I also offered locally available hook alternatives that you probably already use. Again, YouTube has gobs of videos out there for more complete tying and fishing instructions. Thanks again to Randy Hanner for bringing us some new ideas.