THE CANADIAN TUBE FLY COMPANY

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Dirty Sunset

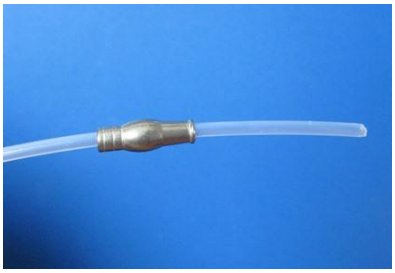
A tube fly by Stuart Anderson

There is absolutely a great deal of confusion in tying circles about what a true "Temple Dog" tube is. I'm asked this question at least a couple of times every week. My answer is this: a "Temple Dog" tube is simply a fly that has a wing that is made into a teardrop shape, a thicker wing at the base and a nice taper that flows into a peak at the tip. As with anything though, this simple description will be debated upon by tiers that have their own thoughts. I believe in simplifying tube tying, getting the basics down first is most important. Working on finer details of a tube style can be improved upon later.

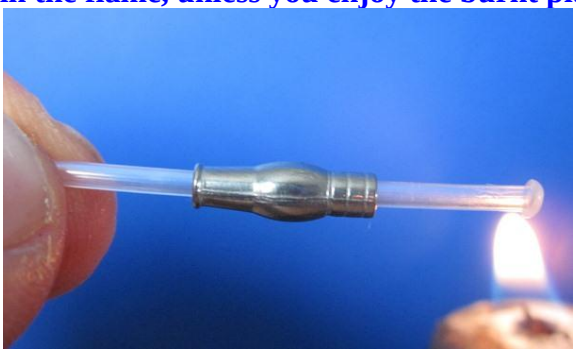
You do not have to use true Temple Dog Fur, though as with most things, having the original material can make things easier. This featured fly does use three colours of TD fur, though I have tied the pattern using Coyote Tail, Arctic Fox Tail, and Canadian Raccoon. Most tube tiers I converse with build TD wings in a similar way. The wing is made in layers of fur with (most of the time) hackle and flash material in between each wing layer. Layering when tying TD style is important when creating a wing that will hold its shape in the current rather than completely compressing against the body of the fly.

Tube:	**13 mm tungsten bump tube**
Junction tubing:	**Transparent Orange FlexTube**
First Wing:	**Yellow Temple Dog or long Arctic Fox. A few strands of yellow or Pearlescent Crystal Flash on top.**
First Hackle:	**Extra Large Grizzly Schlappen, dyed Yellow.**
Second Wing:	**Orange Temple Dog or long Arctic Fox. A few strands of Pearlescent Flashabou on top.**
Second Hackle:	**Extra Large Grizzly Schlappen, dyed Orange**
Final Wing:	**Burnt Orange Temple Dog or long Arctic Fox. A few Red Ostrich Spey Barbs on top.**
Final Hackle:	**Extra Large mallard flank feather, dyed Orange**
Cheeks:	**Jungle Cock**

Begin by sliding the Tungsten Bump Tube onto the liner tube. You will want to cut the liner tube about 2 inches long.

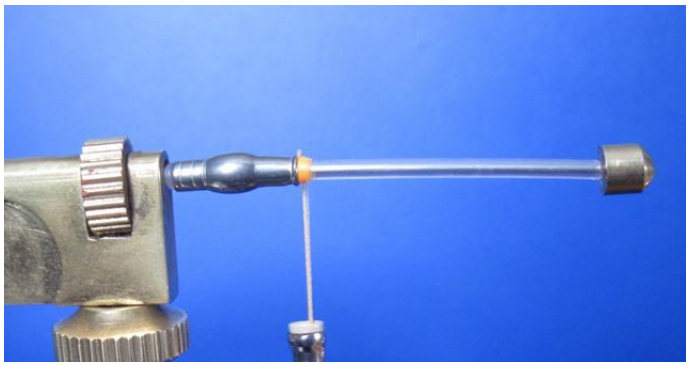


Melt the back end of the liner tube next to an open flame…. Do not stick the liner tube directly in the flame, unless you enjoy the burnt plastic smell ☺.



Place your tube onto your vise adapter.

Tie on your thread securely. Make sure the Bump Tube is pushed tight against the back end of the liner tube. Make a few wraps to securely lock the Bump Tube onto the liner.



Tie in a small bunch of yellow TD (Arctic Fox, Coyote, Canadian Raccoon, and Finn Raccoon are also good substitutes). Be sure to pull out some of the fine "fuzzy" under fur fibers from the base of the wing before you tie it in.

Add a few strands of yellow or pearlescent Crystal Flash.

Tie in a large yellow Grizzly Sclappen feather at its base.

Wind the Schlappen on and tie down.

Tie in another bunch of Temple Dog, this time orange. Make this wing slightly longer and a bit fuller than the yellow wing underneath. Add a few strands of orange Flashabou on top.

Tie in an orange Grizzly Schlappen feather at its base.

Wrap the schlappen forward and tie down

Tie in the final wing of burnt orange Temple Dog. This wing should be a bit shorter than the previous wing to achieve the teardrop effect.

Add a few strands of Red Ostrich spey

Tie in a large orange mallard plume at its tip.

Wind on the mallard and pull all the barbs back before beginning the head.

Tie in your Jungle Cock cheeks.

Lacquer the head and let it fully dry.

When the lacquer has completely dried, cut the liner tube within 1/16 of an inch from the head. Melt next to an open flame to make a nice "lip"

Slide on the transparent orange FlexTube. I like to have a longer Junction tube that really pushes the hook back from the fly.

The most important thing to remember about creating a TD tube is that it is all about the wing. The tapered wing not only looks good when wet, it also serves as a rudder for the fly too. The whole idea of a TD wing is to maintain the fly upright, in order to achieve this, the layering of the wing with hackle is very important. The wing needs to be supported with structure underneath.

Happy tying
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Stuart Anderson,
April 2011