

Martin Joergensen's
boring and bland entry
to the IPSY2K

Too much about airplane food...
and too little about fly tying and fly fishing

The Chicken or Pasta Fly



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I admit that this IPSY2K Pattern Swap Entry will be a statement more than a pattern. But do not despair, there is some fly related material in here – somewhere. I will just use the opportunity to put forward a few opinions on something which is only remotely relevant to fly tying and fly fishing...and then again, maybe it is.

I am extremely tired of air plane food. It has been a long time since I actually had a meal on an airplane, which I enjoyed. Might have been on my 1st class flight to Japan, might have been on a cross Atlantic SAS flight to Seattle, might have been on the Air Canada flight from Montreal to Iqualuit... no matter what, it is a long time ago... too long.

The chicken or pasta fly

The idea for this IPS entry came to me over air plane food trays. I took a weekend in New Jersey to meet up with friends at the Somerset fly tying and fly fishing show, and to get there and back I had to take four different air planes. That gives you time to think! Not only are the flights long, but there is little else to do but think about the miserable plane food and plan an Illustrated Pattern Swap.

For some reason air plane food has to be extremely non-intrusive – bland, tasteless, overdone, pale, nutrient poor; non-fat, non-cholesterol, non-sugar, non-spice... close to non-food actually... I fully respect Kosher, Muslim, vegetarian and other of faith or mere opinion, but the rest of us? Can we please have some food with character and style?

Another thing is the

The author with a Danish sea trout – not taken on a Chicken or Pasta fly...



way it's served. It's cold in one side and boiling in the other. The roll on the diminutive plate is frosted while the butter or cheese is melted because it leaned up against the warm tin foil all the way through the cabin. Everything is neatly packed and stacked in such a way that it will never ever fit back on the tray once you have started breaking it down. And breaking down is the right word, because if you thought you were supposed to get into the little bag with cutlery without breaking a nail and poking yourself with the fork...well, you were wrong! Did you think the lid was supposed to come off the juice without a gigantic splash of juice over your clothes? Hah!

Did you imagine that the little read tab on the Edammer cheese was for opening it? Not!

The Chicken or Pasta Fly

You could be tempted to think that these things were built to last in order to save. It could a way of making air fares less expensive. But as everybody knows, this is not the case. Nothing makes air fares less expensive!

OK, I know I'm digressing from the subject on hand: the IPSY2K. An illustrated fly swap. Flies like in fly fishing no like in airplane. So why am I talking about air plane food? Well, first of all because this fly was conceived on an airplane between the US and Europe while digesting the bland meal. The usual question had been posed to me: chicken or pasta? Why not beef, pork, lamb... even fish? Always chicken or paste. The most harmless foods in the negative sense of the word. I admit that both chicken and pasta can be delicious, but not on airplanes... well, off I go again! It is hard not to. The fly it was.

This fly was a variation of a fly that I have done times over – the Zonker. But I had some really neat dubbing brushes that I wanted to use. These are made by Czech Jan Siman, who does a zillion variations of copper and dubbing. Thanks to Jan's generosity have a grand selection of these and always wanted to use them for my general fishing flies.

When I came home I selected a tan and a red one and combined with natural rabbit fur cut into narrow Zonker strips it made... well, a bland fly. A neutral fly. Actually a boring fly. A real chicken and pasta fly.

The fly fishes well but has taken absolutely no fish! It seems of no interest to Danish sea trout, and I am not proud to put it on my tippet. I'd much prefer my Fair Fly, which has character and style or a more or less nameless Zonker that was baptized the Bonker as a contraction of Bornholm and Zonker. It has a hackle and uses mylar tubing for the body. These two Zonker flies have much more charisma and I feel better when I try to put them in front of a fish somewhere.

There's one thing about the Chicken and Pasta Fly that I like... the hook! It is a great Stinger type of hook from Gamakatsu, a Japanese company that makes some really good hooks. They even take the salt, that I offer them, quite well. That is the only tasty ingredient of the fly if you ask me. Anyways, should you ever want to make the Chicken or Pasta Fly, here is how.

Materials:

Hook: Great, well proportioned, beefy Gamakatsu SC15 - Wide Gape, Curve Bend size 4 or 2

Thread: Bland, boring tan 6/0

Ribbing: Plain copper wire - unvarnished so that it becomes dull in no time

Body: Premade, drab, boring, sand colored Siman dubbing brush on copper wire

Throat: Dull, tasteless red dubbing brush

Wing/tail: Natural, not overly interesting rabbit Zonker strip

Instructions:

Tie the rib on the hook and cover the shank with the tan brush, leaving a bit of space for the red one. Tie in the strip just behind the hook eye and pull backwards. Tie it down with the rib a few open turns and finish the rib just behind the eye. Whip finish and varnish.

Fishing:

Don't! Leave the fly in the box. The stewardess will remove it when you land...

Enjoy your flight!

PS: Soon I will fly to Fly Fair in The Netherlands... wonder what they will serve for breakfast...



See, **this** is a fly pattern with some character and a lot of style!