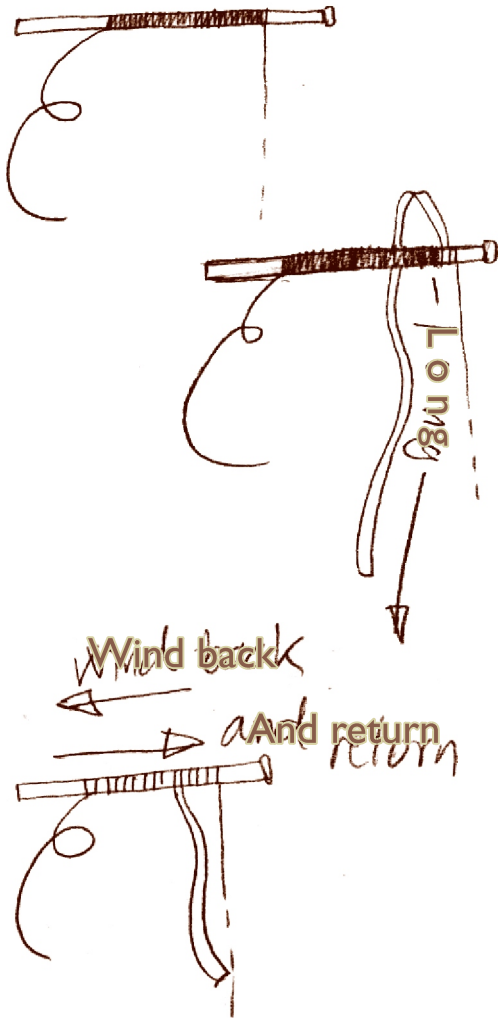




Chicago - Zürich - Copenhagen
Delayed Nutria Tube Muddler

Martin Joergensen's entry in the
Illustrated Pattern Swap III, 1999
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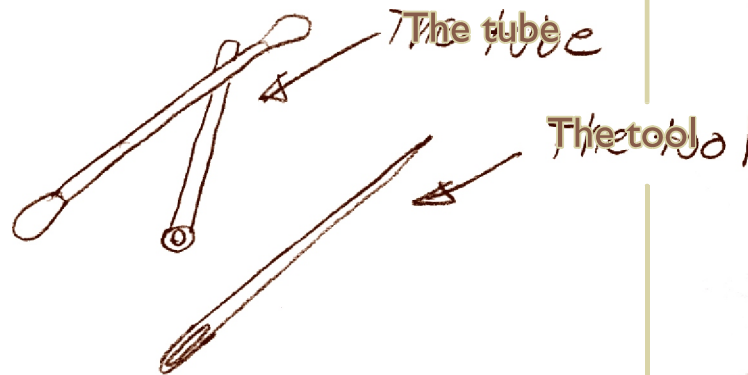
Must be
smooth



In Chicago a person who knows my web site steps up to my tying table and asks me to tie one of these:



A Full Metal Jacket Nutria Muddler
"Well, I can't" says I, "I'm only tying tube flies at this show!" Showing him the Q-Tips and my new tube tool.



A thought strikes me.
"Why not tie it as a tube?"

Muddlers and tubes go together very well.

So I get out my deer hair, my nutria skin, some

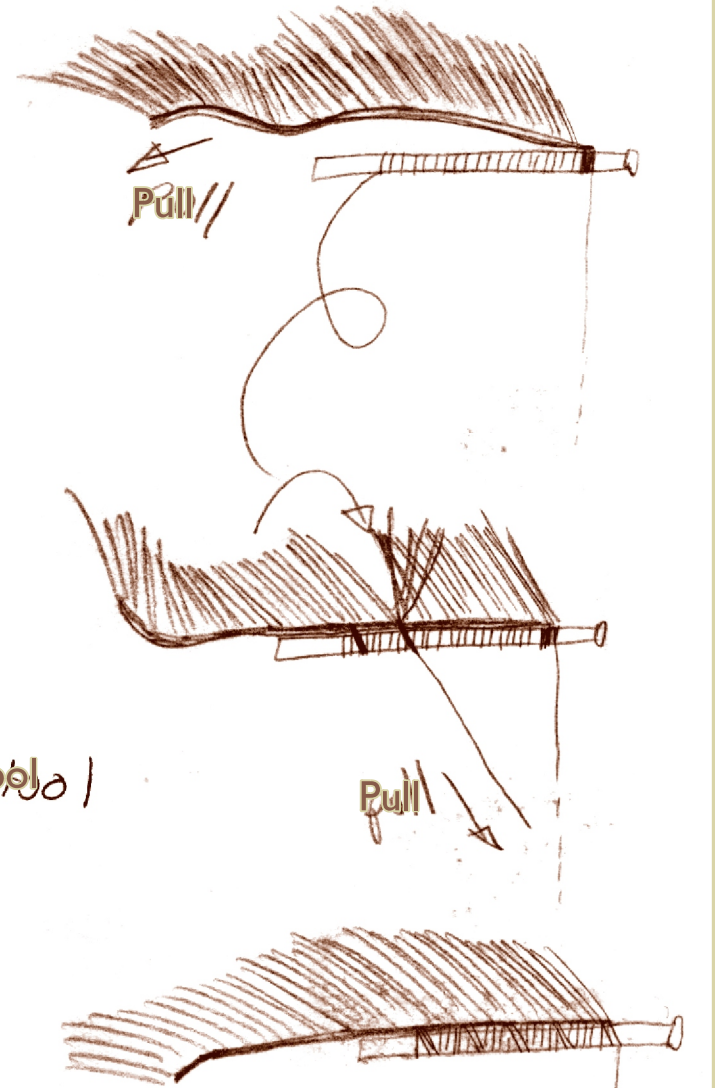
tinsels and get started. And as hoped the fly comes out a beauty. Large but yet light, brutal but yet elegant. Just my kind of fly. I show off to the rest of the spectators and my fellow tyers at the table.

A variation of a favorite fly pattern of mine has been born thanks to that spectator:

I have this Illustrated Pattern Swap coming up. It's the third and I have been in both the earlier ones. I want to make something that's me, but hopefully something different from what everybody else is doing.

Pull//

Pull//



Lightly dressed



Heavily dressed



A tube fly is different – a muddler is me – a tube muddler is a perfect choice. Tube muddlers are not unknown to me. I have tied and fished a few in my time, and i like'em... so do the fish by the way.

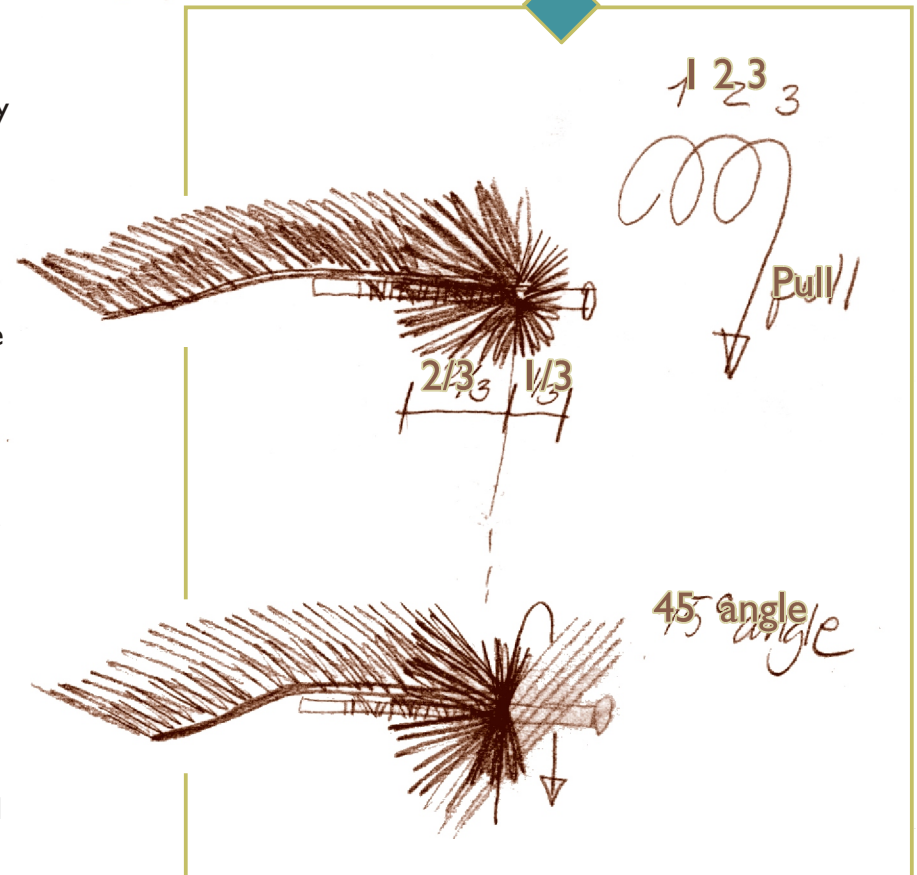
I'm on my way back from Chicago. My trip over was a horror show with cancellations and delays and lost luggage. I went from Copenhagen to Zurich, Zurich to New York, New York to Chicago. And the my bag with all my tying stuff (and clean underwear) was three days late.

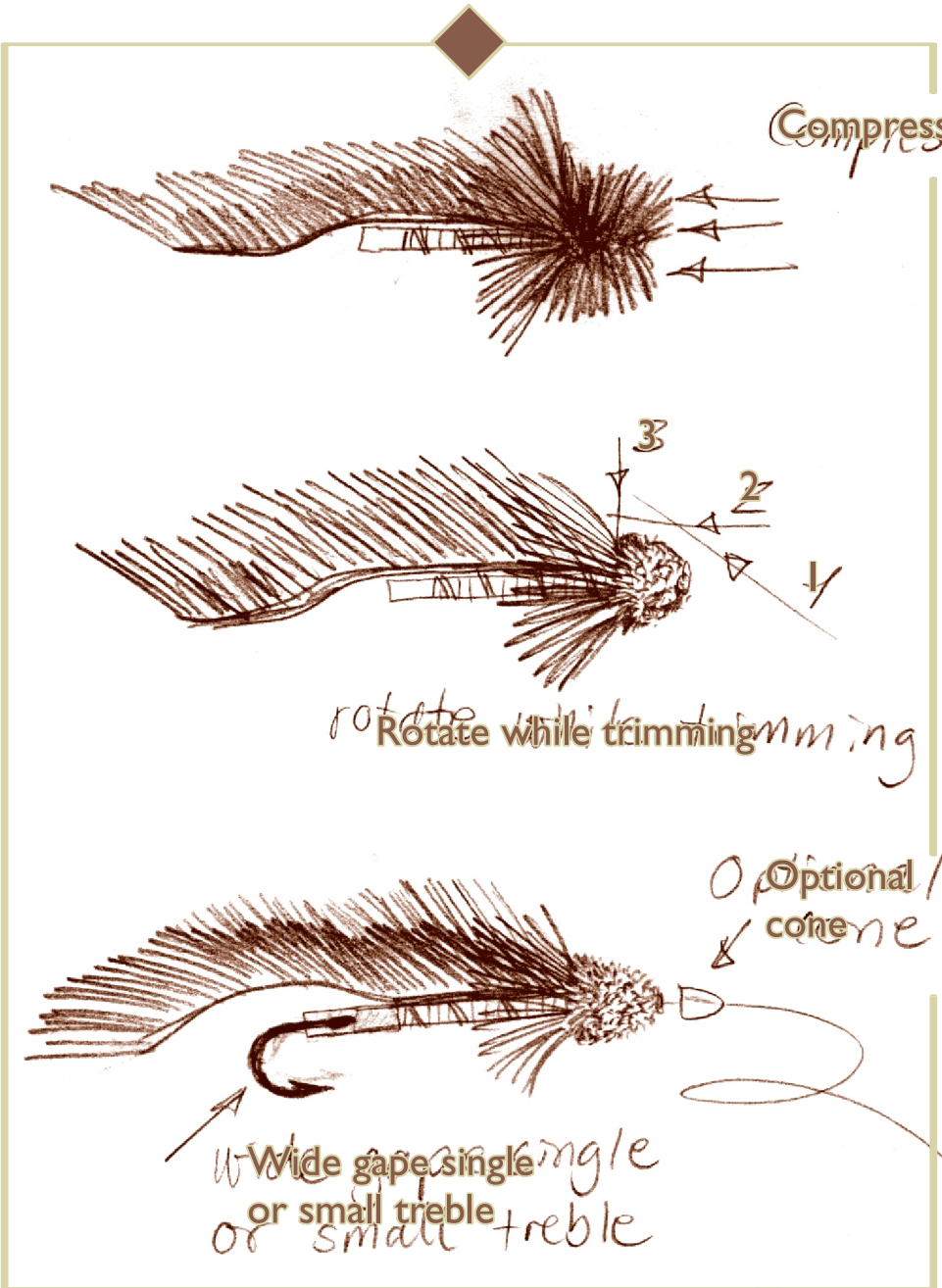
The trip back has only one cancellation and a four hour delay which gives me time to draw up sketches of the fly. I'm munching Swiss cookies and drinking espressos in the business class lounge in Zurich Airport. What a relief after the thin American coffee. As time passes I dub the fly The Chicago-Zurich-Copenhagen Delayed Nutria Tube Muddler – or CZCDNTM for short.

I go over the tying process in my head, and let the pencil work on my newly acquired sketch paper. I'm not good at drawing, but things work out OK anyway. I can see what's happening with the fly - so will the IPS audience... hopefully.

This is an unfished fly. It or any of its kindred has never touched water. It will work. I fell the confidence as I hear the boarding call to the plane to Copenhagen.

I decide not to include tying instructions with my submission. Just some sound advice on tying tubes and muddlers. I consider both types great fishing flies and great fun to tie. Here are the points I want to stress:





Tubes: Play with some inexpensive tubes. I use Q-Tips. Cut off the cotton and melt a small collar with a flame. Use a large darning needle as your tube vice. You can always buy Slipstream copper tubes and an expensive Renzetti tube vice later. And remember: tubes require a lot of material and demand more than usual precision because of the large surface on the shank. Especially tinsel bodies are more than revealing.

Muddlers: Hair! I want to stress hair. The importance of the right material cannot be stressed enough in this connection. Don't use any deer hair. Most is not suitable. Get some that is suitable for spinning or stacking and make sure your source knows what they're doing when it comes to fly tying and knows what they have on their shelves.



Tying on a tube fly is quite easy. Any tube fly you tie, you leave a small piece of the tube uncovered by materials. After tying or before fishing you set a piece of rubber tubing over that rear end. The hook slides into the extension of that tube and stays in place while you fish.

Tying on the fly is easy. Draw the leader through the tube, tie on the hook and pull the hook eye into the rear tube. You can select a traditional treble hook, but a lot of fishers will choose a short shank single hook.

There are specially designed hooks of both kinds. They have narrow needle eyes which facilitates slipping into the soft tubing.

The CZCDNTM can easily be transformed into a CZCFMJNTM. Yeah, that's The Chicago-Zurich-Copenhagen Full Metal Jacket Nutria

Tube Muddler. It takes nothing but a large brass cone. Slip it over the leader before you tie on the fly, and presto! You have a deep sea diver. Fishing this thinggy is a challenge. Don't try casting a fly like this on your average trout rod. This is a big fly with weight and air resistance. It's ment to be fished on a two hand rod, but with some gentle movements it can no doubt be cast on a heavy single hander in the 8-9-10 range.

