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# FLY OF THE MONTH

**Spitz Perch** — a Lake Crowley Fly used with success by Norbert Spitzer in 2005

This fly was inspired by Denny Rickard's Seal Bugger. Photo and notes by Lucky, Revised August 28, 2006



- Hook:** Streamer hook, 3X or 4X Long, size 10 or 12; TMC 5263, 9395; Mustad 9672, 9674; Gamakatsu S11S-4L2H
- Thread:** Red 6/0
- Head:** Red glass bead or brass bead painted red. Or just paint the thread head with red nail polish on flies with the lead underbody.
- Underbody:** Lead or lead substitute, 0.20 lead wire, 20 wraps at the front 2/3 of body (Optional to give more of a jiggling action)
- Tail:** Olive Marabou (or yellow) plus Chartreuse Krystal Flash, sparse (Lots of options here for Krystal flash. Try using gold, pearl or UV.)
- Body:** Arizona Dubblings Krystal Possum, in dark olive or light sow bug for the rear 2/3rds. Olive Ice Dubbing and a few strands of red SLF Poly dubbing in front. (You can also use red Quick Descent Dubbing behind the eye, and olive gray seal or seal imitation for the dubbing) Option - Sparsely palmer wrap a natural or olive-dyed grizzly hackle through the dubbed body.
- Cheeks:** Pearl Mylar strip, tapered to a point. (Cut with the point up)

**D**e-barb the hook and slip on a small to medium glass bead. Attach the thread behind the eye and make a few wraps to secure. Cut about an inch of 0.20 lead. Hold one end and make about 20 tight close wraps of lead around the hook shank. Trim off the ends and push the lead wraps to behind the eye. The lead should cover about 2/3 of the front hook shank and end above the hook point. Wrap the thread over the lead to look like a cocoon and coat with head cement to prevent oxidation of the lead.

Select a small to medium bunch of olive or yellow marabou. Size it so that the tail will be one hook

shank long. Hold it up to the hook and cut the butt ends so that they will merge into the lead wraps. If you cut them right there will not be a depression or a bump in the under body. Tie in the tail starting at the bend of the hook and wrapping forward to the end of the lead wraps. Trim off any of the marabou butts. Wrap back to the bend of the hook to prepare for the flash.

Select three or four strands of Chartreuse Krystal Flash about two inches long.

Tip: If you use the "folded or locked material method" the slippery flash will not pull out as easily. With the bobbin hanging at the bend of the hook, hold the long

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flash fibers by the ends with two hands. Push the middle of the flash against the hanging thread and pull the flash to the far side, up and over the hook shank to the near side. The flash fibers should now be trapped by the thread. Make a few wraps of thread to secure one side. Arrange and separate the fibers on the near side. Take the other front half of the flash fold it up and over the hook shank to the far side. Make two wraps to secure and separate and position those fibers. Make a few tight wraps to secure and half hitch. A small drop of super glue never hurts on a wet fly. Trim the flash to the length of the tail.

Prepare a sparse dubbing loop. Pull out about 6 inches of thread on the bobbin. Pinch the middle and make a few wraps of thread around the hook shank at the bend. Secure with a half hitch. Attach a loop dubbing tool to the thread loop. Use a good tacky dubbing wax on one side of the loop. Norb says he has grown to love SWAX dubbing wax. You want this fly to be almost translucent so that means the dubbing has to be placed thinly in the loop.

(If you want to try an intermediate to advanced trick, attach a grizzly saddle hackle to the hook before the loop and try to incorporate it into the dubbing loop rather than trying to palmer wrap it later.)

The dubbing used on this fly can be varied. For two thirds of the body you want some olive gray crinkly fur. Norb suggests Arizona Dubblings' Krystal Possum in Dark Olive or Light Sow Bug. (This is opossum mixed with crystal flash. He found it at the Trout Fly in Mammoth.) He also has used brown or olive seal or seal imitation - Angora goat). The front third of the dubbing loop is Olive Ice Dubbing, with a few strands of Red SLF Polyester. On some flies he uses Quick Descent Red Dubbing - which is fine shredded aluminum.

Now to make the sparse dubbing loop: Take a small pinch of the opossum dubbing and put it in your Velcro mixing paddles or pull on them to get the fibers close to parallel. Carefully lay about 3/4 inches of sparse dubbing fibers at right angles onto

to the sticky waxed thread close to the hook shank. Pinch out a smaller bunch of Olive Ice Dubbing, pull to make parallel strands and place about 1/4 inch section on the sticky wax. Add a few strands of Red SLF at the end and spin the dubbing tool. The fibers will spin up to a fine rope with long fibers to the sides. Use your bodkin or a small comb to separate any trapped fibers before you start. If it is too thick in places pull out some of the fibers. (If you used the grizzly hackle option, prepare by pulling down on the barbs to separate, just put the long hackle parallel to and between the two threads and on top of the dubbing before you spin the loop.)

Remember we want this fly sparse and translucent, this will require not too much dubbing and more open wraps than you may be used to. Wrap the dubbing loop forward pulling the long fibers back after each wrap. If you planned it right the red dubbing should end just behind the bead. Secure with a few wraps of thread and trim off the tag end of the loop.

Cut and trim two sections of Mylar tape about 1/4 inch long for the cheeks. Cut and taper one end of the Mylar, with the point up. Attach the Mylar on each side behind the glass bead and make a few secure wraps. Secure the cheeks to the side of the body with a small drop of Goop or Dave's Flexament. Whip finish behind the bead head and add a small drop of head cement or super glue.

The next step is to take your bodkin or needle and pick out any trapped fibers. Try to pull up or down on the long fibers to make this fly have a flat vertical fish shape. Use your scissor tips to trim out some fibers if it is too full. It should be about as sparse as Tom Loe's Punk Perch. Hold it up to the light and you should be able to see the 1/16 inch body around the hook shank.

Norb says "I have tied a lot of these without the ice dub and red fibers and they seemed to work okay. I'm not sure that the additional detail is effective, but it looks nice. I fish the thing primarily with an intermediate, clear Camouflage fly line and I think even additional weight would be helpful. Finally based

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on my last Crowley trip last year and the success I enjoyed on the Owens with a Yellow Hornberg, I'm not sure that an appropriately sized Hornberg would not be just as effective. The red head seems to be important. I tie an Olive Woolly Bugger that has been really effective on Lake Miramar using a copper bead painted red."

John Beckstrand asked me if I could take some better pictures of the Spitz Perch. These two photos were taken in natural sunlight and I picked out the long fibers a little more. Note the Mylar Flash gill plate is made from that semi clear bluish Mylar, not the silver and gold Mylar strips..

Note there are six or seven strands of pearl chartreuse Krystal flash on the topside of the olive marabou tail.

The loop dubbed body of fine Arizona Dubbing Company's Krystal Opossum. The dubbing is very fine but does not clump. The front 1/16 inch of the Krystal Dubbing has some very fine flash. Norb sometimes uses Ice Dubbing just behind the red. He told me that this particular fly has a little too much red in it than his normal pattern. In the photo on the previous page I took some of the red out with Photoshop.



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## Fly Fishing Books at the Library

Robert G. Miller

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