



COPPER CLOUSER



Hook: Gamakatsu B10S, #2.
Thread: 3/0, red, hot orange, or black.
Eyes: 4mm dumbbell eyes.
Body: Copper wire.
Underwing: Kinky Fibre, orange.
Midwing: Buck tail, red.
Top wing: Black buck tail topped with peacock herl (layers in the ratio of 3:1:2 – orange: red: black/peacock herl).
Flash: One strand of root beer Krystal Flash per side.
Extra weight: Extra copper wire, tungsten dumbbell eyes.



Top: The vivid colours of this baby tigerfish are clearly visible. Above: A small golden brown bulldog displaying the colours that make the Copper Clouser so effective.

channel. Once swept off the floodplains, they find shelter in eddies off the main current, rocky bands that traverse the Zambezi River, as well as in the various rapid systems. The Copper Clouser is equally deadly in all of these environments. Bulldogs vary from light golden brown to coppery dark mottled brown; out of the water they appear mottled brown, but in the water they display a lovely light coppery sheen – which the Copper Clouser is so good at imitating. As with all baitfish, the underbelly is lighter than the dorsal side. Hence, when tying the wing, it's imperative to work from light to dark, keeping in mind the overall copper colour.

THE WING

The Copper Clouser's wing comprises four layers, the proportions of which are important. The first colour added is orange Kinky Fibre. I like to select a bunch of this (use the entire length, do not cut it short), pulling on one end to give a tapered appearance and then doubling the selection over before tying it in. This gives a good tapered profile rather than a square finish to the wing, as well as saving on material. On top of this I add a thin layer of red buck tail, followed by black buck tail. The wing is finished off with peacock herl on top – which looks great but does not last long. Flash is optional, but one strand of root beer

Krystal Flash on each flank (running along the lateral line) is all that is needed. The proportions of the wing colours can be seen in the picture insert in the recipe box. Basically I follow a 3:1:2 ratio (orange: red: black/peacock). I prefer 3/0 tying thread in red, hot orange, or black, and change the three colours depending on how heavily I weight the flies.

It is my opinion that this colour combination is highly productive on the upper Zambezi due to the fact that it closely resembles the colours of small bulldogs. However, orange and red are widely accepted as trigger colours evoking an aggressive response from fish. This

