

Fly of the Month: The Go-Meaux

By Russ Shields

Like the Clouser Minnow, the Go-Meaux rides hook-up through the water – that's why the Zonker strip is tied on with the fur down; in the water it is fur up. This is a killer fly for bull reds. However, the large hook, dumbbell eyes, and the weight of a wet, three-inch plus Zonker strip can make this fly a real challenge to cast with an 8wt. Think about upping your game to a 10wt rod. It will make for an easier day of fishing, and a quicker catch and release for the very large, and beautiful, bull reds



Ingredients:

Hooks: Mustad Mustad 34007 1/0 or 2/0




Eyes: Dumbbells medium or large, sized to the hook





Thread: Danville flat waxed nylon in white, chartreuse or red.

Tail: Magnum Zonker strip (rabbit) – white, about 1/4" wide, 3-5/8" long

Body: Estaz/Cactus Chenille (white or chartreuse) and Palmer Chenille (white or chartreuse)

Steps:

1		<p>Crush the hook's barb and install the hook in the vise. Lay down a thread base between the hook eye and the hook bend.</p> <p>Tie in the dumbbell eye about 1/3 of the length of the hook shank back from the hook eye.</p>
2		<p>Cut a length of fur from the Zonker strip 3 - 5/8" long. When you cut the rabbit strip be careful not to cut the fur where you cut the leather. I have found that the easiest way to do this is to mark the location of the cut with a pencil and then stretch the leather strip over a hard, round object like a glass spice bottle or an inch and half wooden dowel. Stretch the leather tightly over the round surface using the thumb and forefinger of your left hand and <u>gently</u> cut the leather with a razor knife or Exacto Knife with your right hand (for right-handed people) while it is under tension. This will make a clean cut and not lose any fur.</p>
3		<p>Strip the fur from about a half an inch on the "short fur" end of the Zonker and tie it in above the bend, fur side down, with tight thread wraps, beginning at a point just above the hook point. A drop of super glue on the hook shank before you tie in the Zonker, will help to keep it from rotating around the hook shank as you tie it down.</p>

4		<p>Note: For this and longer lengths of Zonker strips, consider installing a short length of 80-100# mono along a portion of the Zonker. Using your bodkin or an awl, pierce the Zonker about an inch back from the bend of the hook (it's easier to make the hole before you tie in the Zonker!). Cut a piece of mono about three inches long and melt a small bulb at one end.</p>
5		<p>When the bulb is cool, insert the mono from the fur side of the Zonker and tie it down on the hide side, along the hook shank with the curvature of the mono in a vertical plane, curve down. Leave the bulb of the mono a bit past the pierced hole and buried in the fur. Cut the excess mono behind the dumbbell eye. This will help keep the long Zonker strip from wrapping around the hook when you are fishing it.</p>
6		<p>Tie in the Estaz (or Cactus Chenille) just above the hook bend then return the thread to just behind the dumbbell eye. Using touching turns, wrap the Estaz to the thread and tie it off.</p>
7		<p>Tie in the Palmer Chenille a short way behind the dumbbell eye, then move the thread to just behind the hook eye. While stroking the fibers to the rear of the fly, make a few wraps of Palmer Chenille behind the dumbbell eye then cross over and make a few more turns between the dumbbell eye and the hook eye. This creates a collar on the fly. Tie off the Palmer Chenille behind the hook eye.</p> <p>Stroke the chenille fibers to the rear and over the dumbbell eye and apply a small amount of UV cure glue to hold them in place. Do the same on the bottom of the hook. If necessary, using scissors, trim the Palmer Chenille away from the eye portion of the dumbbell eyes.</p> <p>Afterwards, apply head cement or UV to the finishing head threads</p>