



# **THE CANADIAN TUBE FLY COMPANY**

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## *Intruders – Tube Fly Style*

*By Stuart Anderson*



*No other pattern in recent years has dominated the west coast steelhead and salmon scene as much as the Intruder. In fact, these patterns have proven to be so effective that they are now taking the Great Lakes by storm and have even most recently made the jump across the Atlantic into a*

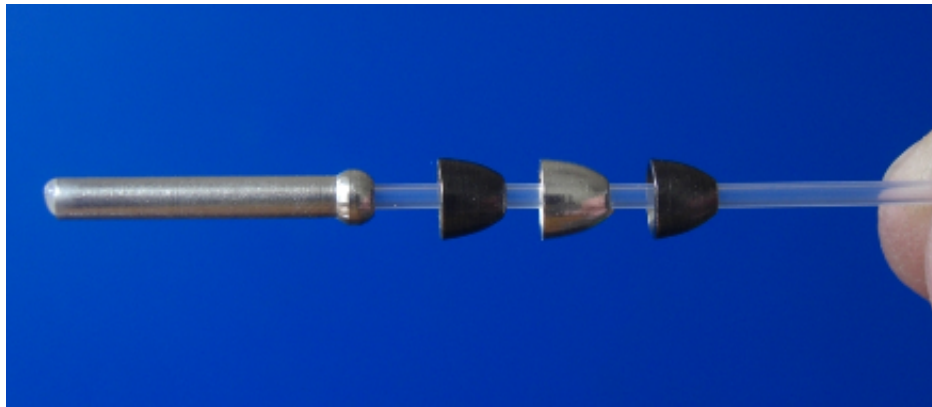
*few brave European fly boxes. It's not sure whether they scare fish to death or look like a long ago juicy prawn once eaten in the ocean but these flies catch fish.*

*Anyone who has closely followed the development of the Intruder knows that every tier has there own take on what works best. I think most fly tyers would agree that the word Intruder is best used to describe a style of fly rather than a specific pattern. The most obvious characteristic with all Intruders is there size – they are huge compared to a traditional steelhead or salmon fly. The next qualification for a fly to be an “Intruder” is for the pattern to look ridiculously buggy. Long flowing hackle like ostrich and rhea barbs, blue eared pheasant, large heron, Lady Amherst center tail fibers, and long, slim grizzly hackles are common favourites appearing on these fantastic patterns. The last common attribute to the majority of Intruder flies is substantial weight. The first intruders almost always had dumbbell eyes at the front of the fly to punch through heavier currents. When added up, the weight of the eyes, hook shank, and trailing hook made a “plunker” of a fly. Most current Intruders patterns also have a substantial shot of weight to them.*

*Intruder flies were (and still often are) tied on large sized hooks that have had the hook point and bend cut off with wire cutters. A trailing hook is then tied in with fire wire or some other sort of braided line that is first tied down on a bed of tying thread and then glued over the shank of the broken off hook. Intruders are also sometimes tied using Waddington Shanks and trailing hooks. This cleaned up the look of the Intruder, having a nice eyelet at the back of the shank rather than just a cut off point.*

*The latest styles of Intruders are now being seen more and more as tube flies. Using tubes for an already long and webby pattern makes sense. Most metal tubing can be ordered in almost any length, some over three inches long. Tubes also come in different types, plastic, aluminum, copper, brass, and stainless steel. This puts the weight of the final pattern completely in your hands. The weight that a metal tube offers over a standard hook shank or Waddington allows a tyer to have a weighted pattern without the dumbbell eyes that can drastically alter the balance of the fly. I believe that the more uniformly a fly sinks, the better your chance is of both a hit and actually hooking the fish that hit. Tubes achieve this uniform sinking much easier than the standard trailing hook and dumbbell eye presentation. When tubes are used, body cones can also be incorporated for a completely*

*balanced fly with a fantastic amount of weight. That was the driving force behind the development of the Russian Intruder series.*



A fully balanced tube with a Nubby Tube over Inner Lining Tube and body Cones added to balance the entire pattern. I use this on the Russian Intruder series.

*Many like the ease of hook replacement with Intruder Tubes too. It's true that a hook can be replaced with standard trailing hook setups by resnelling the loop created by the braided line. In cold weather, with shaky hands, this can sometimes prove challenging. With tubes, it's a matter of tying on another hook and synching it into the junction tube. Using a tube for your Intruders also gives you the well documented advantage with all tube flies – they last longer because when a fish is hooked the hook usually disengages from the pattern and the fly sees less time in the mouth of the fish. With standard Intruders, the hook is absolutely replaceable but the pattern still often remains in the teeth of a fish during the fight. With some intruders taking well over half an hour each to tie and costing as much as 8 or 10 dollars in a shop, saving your pattern from the mouth of a fish is important. After all, anyone who has tied up many Intruders knows that tying a dozen up is not the same as tying a few Woolly Buggers for your pals!*

*Using tubes for Intruders also allows you to add a splash of colour to the back of the fly. I use Flex Tube for my junction tubing, it comes in a wide range of colours that really adds to the overall look of the fly. I have friends that also like to incorporate a coloured hook that also compliments (to use a term from the fashion world) the flies colours. The best part with using Flex Tube is that the Flex Tube is only being used as your junction tubing – the tube that connects your pattern to your hook. Junction tube, unless you tie it right onto your metal tube, is interchangeable. I often will fish my Intruder*

*Tubes with different colours of Flex Tube, it is a really fast way to make some subtle but sometimes effective changes while on the river.*



Flex Tube looks great on the back of Intruders



*By far the biggest advantage to using tubes for Intruders though is the ability to have your hook not foul around your wing and tail. With a standard trailing hook, often a pattern can get twisted up and wrap around itself. This is because the hook is only being held away from the pattern by a floppy braided line. When using a tube, the junction tube can be cut long and allow the hook to be held far back from the flowing parts of the pattern.*



The Flex Tube holds the hook back and away from the trailing materials so there is less chance of your hook wrapping around the pattern.



*I believe this more rigid presentation allows your pattern to retain its shape better in the water too. When a standard Intruder is sinking for instance, it is possible for the hook to be hanging way lower than the actual pattern. Using a tube with a Flex Tube back allows your hook to sink parallel with the pattern and have the hook set behind the fly rather than under it. I believe this makes for a better hook up percentage.*



In this picture, the Intruder Tube is being held in the fly tying vise by the hook. Though there is some “give” in the Flex Tube, it does hold the hook back in line with the pattern, right where a fish would take it from.

*It is tempting to think that everything new, including ways to tie flies, is always better than the old way of doing things. Anyone who has been around tying for a while will tell you that newer is not always better. By no means in this article did I want to extend the sentiment that using tubes is a better way to tie Intruder style. I see some advantages to the use of tubes, though I also recognize that getting into tying tubes can be a bit intimidating to a lot of tiers. I can say though that I have yet to meet an experienced flytyer that did not fully embrace the advantages when they began tying “tubular”.*

*Here are a few recipes of my favourite Intruder style tubes .....*



## GENERAL PRACTITIONER INTRUDER – LIGHT

**Tube:** 1.5 or 2 inch small diameter metal tube, I prefer stainless steel.  
Junction tube is transparent orange Flex Tube.

**Thread:** Fire Orange 6/0

**Tail:** several strands of orange Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also one dyed orange heron hackle or B.E. Pheasant.

**Rear Body:** Back 2/3 of tube - Black 4 strand floss with a fine silver rib

**Mid Hackle:** several strands of long orange Lady Amherst center tail fibers plus several strands of pearlescent Crystal Flash

**Rear Body:** Front 1/3 of tube – Orange Seals fur dubbing (or substitute) with a large dyed orange heron (or substitute) hackle palmered thru.

**Hackle:** 2 orange large heron (or substitute) hackle dyed orange

**Throat:** several strands of very long orange Lady Amherst center tail fibers plus several strands of pearlescent Crystal Flash

**Collar:** a large mallard flank feather dyed hot orange. Strip it on one side.

**Wing:** a large GP Tippet cut in a “v” like a regular General Practitioner pattern. 4 large Golden Pheasant Rump Feathers, either natural red or dyed orange.

**Cheeks:** long jungle cock



## GENERAL PRACTITIONER INTRUDER – DARK

**Tube:** 1.5 or 2 inch small diameter metal tube, I prefer stainless steel. Junction tube is transparent orange Flex Tube.

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail:** several strands of orange Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also one dyed black heron hackle or B.E. Pheasant.

**Rear Body:** Back 2/3 of tube - Black 4 strand floss with a fine silver rib

**Mid Hackle:** several strands of long orange Lady Amherst center tail fibers plus several strands of pearlescent Crystal Flash

**Rear Body:** Front 1/3 of tube – Black Seals fur dubbing (or substitute) with a large dyed black heron (or substitute) hackle palmered thru.

**Hackle:** 2 black heron (or substitute) hackle **Throat:** several strands of very long orange Lady Amherst center tail fibers plus several strands of pearlescent Crystal Flash

**Collar:** a large mallard flank feather (natural). Strip it on one side.

**Wing:** a large GP Tippet cut in a “v” like a regular General Practitioner pattern. 4 large Golden Pheasant Rump Feathers, dyed black.

**Cheeks:** long jungle cock



## PURPLE INTRUDER

**Tube:** 1.5 or 2 inch small diameter metal tube, I prefer stainless steel. Junction tube is transparent purple Flex Tube. Only melt the inside liner tube on the back of the tube. Leave a ¼ inch of extra liner tube out the front of the metal tube. You will need this later to attach your cone.

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail:** several strands of purple Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also one dyed purple heron hackle or B.E. Pheasant.

**Rear Body:** Back 2/3 of tube - Purple 4 strand floss with a fine silver rib

**Mid Hackle:** several strands of long purple Lady Amherst center tail fibers plus several strands of purple, silver, and pink Flashabou

**Rear Body:** Front 1/3 of tube – Purple or Black Seals fur dubbing (or substitute) with a large dyed purple heron (or substitute) hackle palmered thru.

**Hackle:** 2 purple heron (or substitute) hackle

**Collar:** a large pink mallard flank feather. Strip it on one side.

**Cheeks:** long jungle cock

**Head:** copper cone.





## OLIVE INTRUDER

**Tube:** 1.5 or 2 inch small diameter metal tube, I prefer stainless steel. Junction tube is transparent green Flex Tube. Only melt the inside liner tube on the back of the tube. Leave a ¼ inch of extra liner tube out the front of the metal tube. You will need this later to attach your cone.

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail:** several strands of olive Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also one dyed olive heron hackle or B.E. Pheasant.

**Rear Body:** Back 2/3 of tube - Chartreuse 4 strand floss with a fine silver rib

**Mid Hackle:** several strands of long olive Lady Amherst center tail fibers plus several strands of green, silver, and copper Flashabou

**Rear Body:** Front 1/3 of tube – olive or green Seals fur dubbing (or substitute) with a large dyed olive heron (or substitute) hackle palmered thru.

**Hackle:** 2 olive heron (or substitute) hackle

**Collar:** a large chartreuse mallard flank feather. Strip it on one side.

**Cheeks:** long jungle cock

**Head:** silver cone.

## RUSSIAN INTRUDERS



*The Russian Bullet style of tying was originated by the late Juri Shumakov. He used a series of cones on a plastic tube that had fur and feathers tied in between each cone. This style has long proven to be successful. I adapted this same style and created the “Russian Intruder” pattern, a fantastically weighted pattern that sinks uniformly in the water. A full “Step by Step” article can be viewed here .....*

[http://www.canadiantubeflies.com/files/Russian\\_Intruder.pdf](http://www.canadiantubeflies.com/files/Russian_Intruder.pdf)



## RUSSIAN INTRUDER - PURPLE

**Tube:** 22 MM Nubby Tube with at least 3 inches of inner liner tube. Melt the back end of the liner tube and slip on the Nubby Tube. Then add three cones onto the liner tube, in front of the Nubby Tube. The Flex Tube (hot pink for this pattern) can be added after the fly is completed for the junction tube.

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail:** several strands of purple Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also tie in several strands of pearlescent Crystal Flash. Tie off and add head cement.

**Rear Body:** Slide one of the cones over the tail that you just tied off. Tie back on in front of the cone and wind a purple, then SD Blue schlappen feather. Create a “head” and tie off and head cement it.

**Mid Body:** Slide the next cone over the “head” that you just tied off. Tie in several strands of purple Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also tie in several strands of pearlescent Crystal Flash. Wind on a purple, then SD Blue schlappen feather. Create a “head” and tie off and head cement it.

**Hackle / Front:** Slide the last cone over the “head” that you just tied off. Tie in several strands of long SD Blue Lady Amherst center tail fibers. Tie them in spaced around the tube. Also tie in several strands of Purple Crystal Flash. Wind on SD Blue then purple schlappen.

**Collar:** a large SD Blue Guinea feather.

**Cheeks:** long jungle cock

### Other Russian Intruder Tubes



**RUSSIAN INTRUDER - RED**





**RUSSIAN INTRUDER – BLACK & WHITE**



**RUSSIAN INTRUDER - SUNRISE**





**RUSSIAN INTRUDER - TURQUOISE**

*Stuart Anderson,*  
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