



Minkie Suspender #8



KJ Fenton Cat Booby #10



Mini Fab Cocktail #12



Martini Black Cat Humungus #10



Hopper Popper Black #10



Pseudo Red Holo Diawl Bach #10

Nick Hart's Winter Reservoir Selection

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Farlows Fishing Manager, Nick Hart, selects the key patterns to choose if you are fishing reservoirs in winter.



KJ Fenton Cat Booby #10

It may look hideous, a kind of Blob Frankenstein, but this highly buoyant pattern has become my go-to booby when fishing reservoirs during the colder months. Fish from a boat with a fast sinking line, get it down deep, strip for several feet and then hang. I often fish two at a time!



Minkie Suspender #8

I like to have this imitative fry pattern close to hand just in case the trout switch onto the abundant juvenile coarse fish present in so many reservoirs. Try working the layers with various densities of sinking line around fish holding features such as boat pontoons or buoys. Big perch also love this fly!



Martini Black Cat Humungus #10

Winter Brown Trout fishing has never been better on venues such as the Midlands giant, Rutland. There are many patterns available to target these wonderful fish, but I rarely enjoy a session without spending some time with an intermediate line, pulling a Humungus back steadily to bring its mobile fibres and flash to life.



Mini Fab Cocktail #12

Love them or hate them, there is no denying how deadly blobs are when targeting rainbow trout. This mini version is particularly effective when fished nearly static, either very slowly on a sinker, or allowed to dead drift on a sink tip. It's a great fly to try when fishing long leaders washing line style, with flies such as the Pseudo Diawl as part of the team.



Pseudo Red Holo Diawl Bach #10

The addition of organza in this most traditional of stillwater patterns really adds to the movement. Throw in some enticing red holographic tinsel and I am full of confidence when searching for the better-quality resident rainbows during the colder months. Try very slow retrieves and fish two as part of a team with a blob on the point.



Hopper Popper Black #10

Fuelled by cool, oxygen-rich water, reservoir rainbows will feed hard, even during a sporadic winter hatch. An imitation such as a simple Hopper or Shipman's may work but I like to give them a decent mouthful, twitching this louder version away