



THE CANADIAN TUBE FLY COMPANY

www.canadiantubeflies.com

Adding Cones to Tube Flies... I'm Confused!

By Stuart Anderson

We have been resistant to presenting tube flies as a system that sees part 'A' slipping into part 'B', then part 'C', etc. I think such systems are limiting and honestly a bit insulting to the average and advanced tier who really knows what his or her fishing needs are and how to make modifications that will suite their fishing best. That being said, when one isn't presented things in an organized way, beginning tiers can sometimes be left behind. I learn by doing, as many tiers do. I'm way more comfortable with a pile of tying materials in front of me and a few hours to kill. Of course, this only works when you already have the pile of materials in front of you, not when you are wondering what type of cones and tubes to order.

Adding cones to tube patterns is way more mainstream now than it once was. It's not rocket science, though there are a few questions one needs to ask oneself before adding a cone to any pattern:

- *Am I adding the cone purely for looks? Or am I adding it for additional weight?*
- *If I am adding a cone for weight, have I thought of how that weight at the front of the hook will affect [Hook Hang Down \(HHD\)](#)?*
- *Do I want my fly to have additional "action" in the water?*
- *Will I still be able to effectively cast the fly with a cone being added?*
- *How will I have to change the line / leader setup I use when fishing a tube with a cone?*

Adding a cone usually follows the same steps. It is done after the entire fly is tied (1.). The loose cone slips onto the plastic tubing and is cut to 1/16 of an inch (2.) and the plastic tube is melted until the cone is securely attached (3).

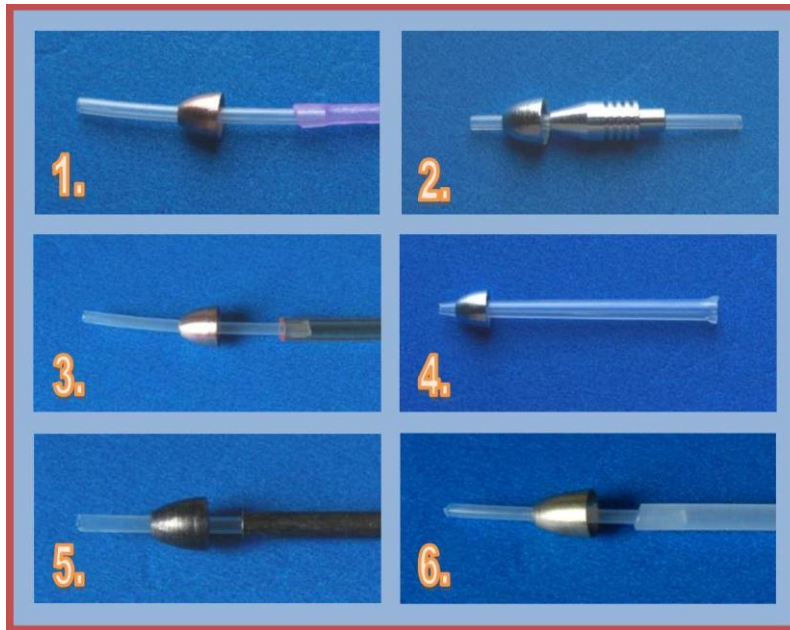


Let's take a look at the different tube flies we offer at The Canadian Tube Fly Company.....

Standard Tube Cones



We call standard cones any cone that slips onto small diameter plastic tubing. The holes on these cones are almost always close to 1.8 mm in diameter, just big enough to slip onto Liner Tube or small diameter Scandinavian style plastic tubing.



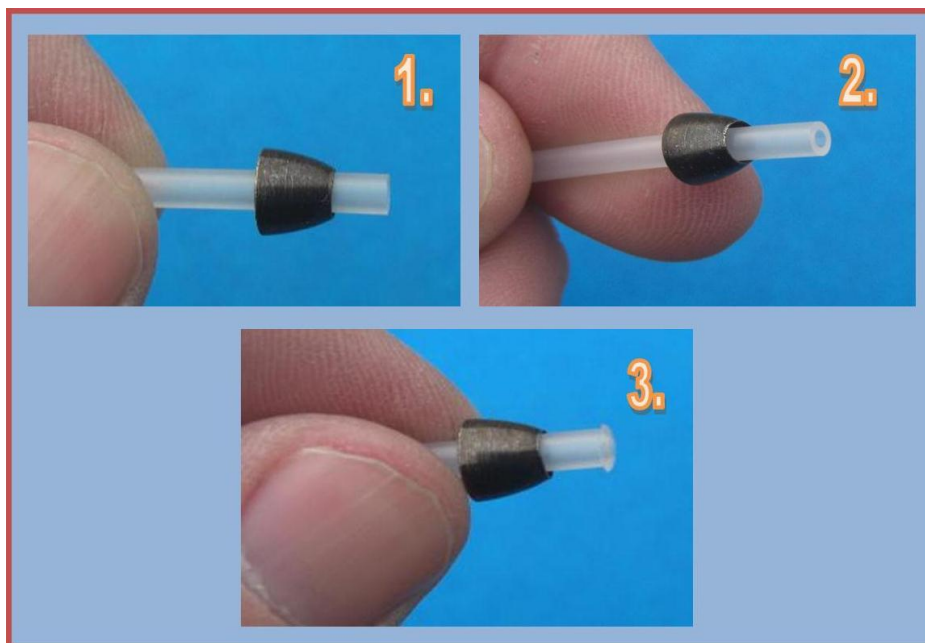
- (1.) A standard tube cone used on a [Wiggle Tube](#). Liner tube is first inserted into the [Wiggle Tubing](#).
 (2.) A standard tube cone used on a [Shumakov Tube](#). Liner tube is first inserted into the [Shumakov Tube](#). (3.) A standard tube cone used on a [Flex Tube](#). Liner tube is first inserted into the [Flex Tubing](#).
 (4.) A standard tube cone used on a [Tapered Tube](#). (5.) A standard tube cone used on a small [Metal Tube](#). Liner tube is first inserted into the [Metal Tube](#). (6.) A standard tube cone used on large [Plastic Tubing](#). Liner tube is first inserted into the [Plastic Tube](#).



Large Hole Tube Cones



Large Hole Tube Cones work exactly the same way as standard cones except that the hole diameter is closer to 3 mm. This allows you to place the cone on 1/8 inch plastic or Scandinavian style tubing.

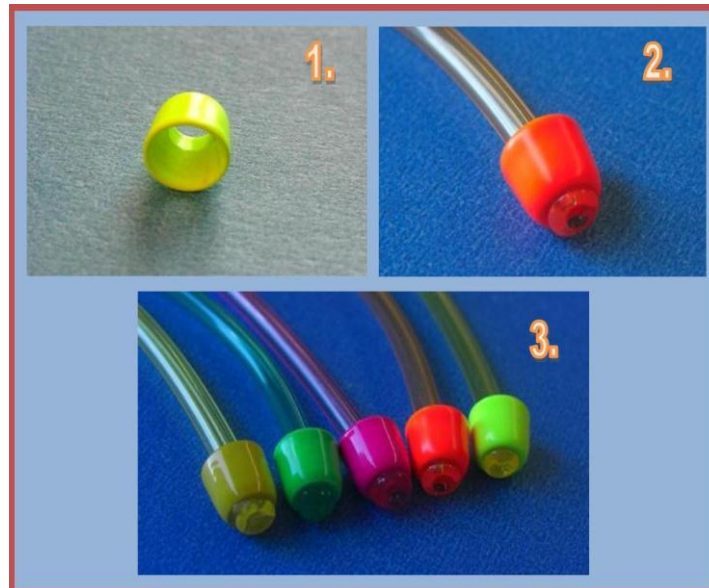


(1). Slip the large hole cone onto your 1/8 plastic tubing. (2.) You will notice that the cone fits loosely over the tubing. (3.) Melt the end of the plastic tubing to secure the cone in place.

FlexTube Cone Heads



We originally designed these tubes to be used exclusively with Flex Tube. They have a hole just under 4 mm. This allows them to easily slip on Flex Tube, as well as plastic and large Scandinavian tubing. These fit on a bit more loosely than large hole tube cones, this was done intentionally. Sometimes you can get a bit of build up at the front of the fly because of all of your securing wraps. The bigger hole on these cones allows you to really pull back on the pattern and fully cover up the tying thread. Flex Tube cones also have a larger recessed area to cover more of your tie down area.



(1.) You can see in this picture the extra-large recess in the back of these cones..... perfect for covering larger tie down areas. (2.) The end of the Flex Tube is melted into a lip to form a nice tight fit. (3.) We like to coordinate the colour of Flex Tube with the cones.



Monster Cone Heads



By their looks, Monster cones obviously are very different than “standard” tube cones. Though they can be used to add some weight to a pattern, they are mostly used to help hold the shape or silhouette of a fly. By using Monster Cones, you can control how laid down your material looks when being tossed around the current. Specifically when you use marabou. A nice fluffy pattern can matt right down along the side of the tube. The Monster cones helps to create a guarded area around the shoulder of the fly that prevents the shape of the fly from completely matting down.



(1). Monster Cones also fit onto [Liner Tube](#). The diameter of the hole is approximately 1.8 mm. (2.) See how the Monster Cone protects the fluffy collar around the “shoulder” of the fly (3.) We also add Monster Cones to [Wiggle Tube](#) patterns. They really make the pattern wiggle in the current.

Ultralight Monster Cone Heads



Ultralight Monster cones work the same way as a regular Monster Cone, except they are very light. Thought they are metal, they are much thinner so as to not weigh down the front of your fly. I also find that these cones add more action to your pattern. They allow your pattern to wiggle more when fished in a current or trolled.



(1). Available in a large assortment of electroplated and painted colours. Unlike other companies, the paint jobs are made to last. (2.) The Ultralight Monster Cones also have a large recess to fit you're your tie down area.

Stuart Anderson,
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