

The guys at MirrOlure recently sent me some FatBoys in their new color patterns. I tried these out as prototypes last winter and loved the results, and am looking forward to catching some more big trout on them in the future.

Many of you know I've always loved the natural look of a 10 (pearl/black back) Corky in clear water. Although I place low value on color (compared to lure choice and presentation), I do like to match the look of a lure to the conditions, to improve my confidence more than anything else. When the water is ultra-clear, the fish can see things better, so the color of a lure seems more important than in other situations.

When it's dark and the water is clear, I favor dark lures like strawberry/black back and black/chartreuse tail. Marine scientists tell us a fish's eye is better able to discern contrast than hues, so these dark lures create a more discernible profile against the faint backdrop of light present in the night. I've had great success using this plan, though I suspect the fish find a lure at night mostly by homing in on the noise it's making, using their lateral lines more than their eyes.

After dawn, when light begins to brighten the sky, I favor lures like the aforementioned pearl/black back in clear water. Two of the new colors offered by MirrOlure are also nicely suited for duty in clear water during the day time:



Color 49 is described as bayou green back/silver whisker glitter, while 18 is called green back/silver glitter. Significantly, the number 18 is a standard old-school one in the MirrOlure system. Anglers have for many years touted the effectiveness of the natural looking "mullet" color pattern. Both these lures look much like the fish they are designed to imitate, with a dark, warm shade on the back, just enough flash on the sides, and a white belly.

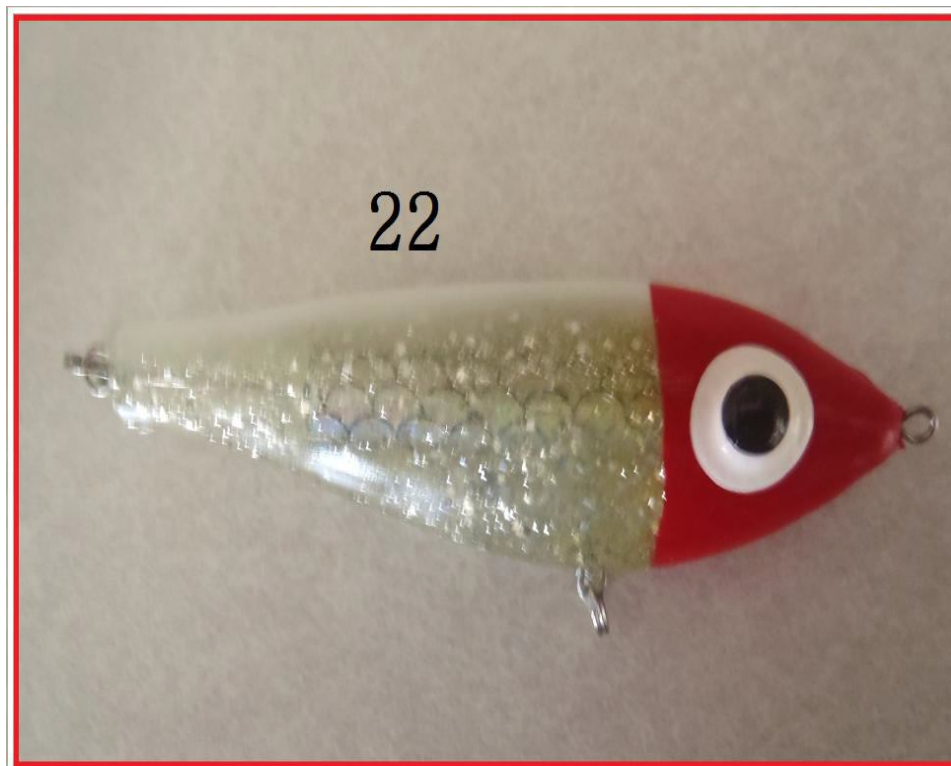
The plugs in the picture are sinking, rattling FatBoys. I won't hesitate to throw these same

colors in floating FatBoys and/or Originals, particularly when I'm fishing crystal clear waters less than two- feet deep.

Colors 49 and 18 are quite similar to 15 (bone back/ silver whisker glitter), 96 (copper top) and 99 (emerald green silver). All five of these color patterns are well-matched to situations where fish can see the lures clearly.

On the other hand, when the water is not as clear, I favor lures which look less natural, but which fish might be able to find a little easier. Lures fitting this description generally include dark parts and light parts, with a sharp line between the two contrasting hues. Two of my favorites in this category are 02 (strawberry/white tail) and 97 (black/chartreuse tail). Because these lures carry more of the dark hue than the light one, I generally favor them for use under cloudy skies (or at night) in murky water.

When skies are bright and the water color poor, I like lures with more light and less dark on them. For many years, I've liked a Woody Woodpecker color pattern for use in these conditions, meaning a lure with a white body and a red head. MirrOlure now offers this color pattern, numbered 22:



I love the idea of the Woody (22) under bright skies, when the water's a little off. Though trout can't see the color red, the dark hue riding on the front of the lure no doubt creates a strong contrast against the lighter back end, making it relatively easy for fish to find. A color similar to this one is 14 (red head/glow).

All colors and versions of Paul Brown's Original Lures can be purchased online at [mirrolure.com](http://mirrolure.com).