

Tying the Kōtututuku koura pattern.

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- Fix a size 6-10, 2x long shank hook in the vice, e.g., Black Magic C8.
- Starting 3 eye lengths back along the shank, lay down a thread base to the bend of the hook and return 2/3 the way back towards the eye.
- Take a good clump of squirrel tail and tie in firmly to the top of the shank, starting at the 2/3 point, with the hair overhanging the bend of the hook about 1 ½ times the length of the shank.
- Split the hair vertically in two equal parts and bind in a 'Y' shape using wraps around each arm/pincer and pulling back to the shank each time.
- Tie in bead eyes or plastic chain bead eyes using figure of 8 wraps.
- Tie in about 10cm of jewellery elastic, then tie in 3-4cm of scud-back so that they are over the eyes.
- Tie in ice straggle, about 15cm, then wrap back toward the eye, finishing and tying in at the 3 eye lengths point.
- Lay the scud-back over and fix in, followed by wrapping the elastic back with 3-4 even turns, and tie in.
- Cut another, smaller, clump of squirrel tail and tie on top of the shank and over the eye, just longer than the hook shank.
- Put thread wraps between the eye and squirrel tail.
- Tie in the last of the scud and then whip finish.
- Apply finishing varnish to the tread wraps and then plenty to each arm and the tail. Wait for a minute or two for the varnish to go tacky then form the pincer arms and flatten the tail.
- This style has been used successfully for jigging with minimal weight. It can easily be modified for fly fishing using lead wire or weighted beads. Have fun.

As an aside, Kōtututuku Bay is the Bay on Lake Tarawera in front of the Landing. Kōtututuku is the name of the NZ tree fuchsia, the largest fuchsia in the world, which can still be found around the Bay.