

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Polish Pheasant Tail Nymph

With spring comes higher water – hopefully – and more active fish. Increased water flows, a little color in the water, and bugs actively tumbling in the current - This is prime time for European Nymph fishing at its best. Whether you are a fan of the tungsten bead or not, it is a highly effective way to fish. Even if you don't adopt the method, the flies work remarkably well.



A pattern from Davy McPhail, this fly dives like a torpedo, stays close to the bottom, and has a classic buggy shape and buggy color. The barbless European-style hook is sharp as a tack, penetrates to the bend every time, yet drops right out in the net. The hot-spot really seems to draw attention, and the dubbed thorax is much more durable than the traditional style.

Hook: Dohiku Nymph or Jig Hook size 12-16

Bead: Gold Tungsten of appropriate size – use slotted for bead
for jig hook Thread: 8/0 or 12/0 Brown

Tail: Coq De Leon fibers

Hot Spot: Fluorescent

Orange thread Body:

Pheasant Tail Fibers

Ribbing: Fine copper

wire Thorax: Bronze

Peacock Dubbing

- 1) Place bead on hook and secure in vise.
- 2) Start fluorescent orange thread behind bead and wrap one layer to hook bend.
- 3) Tie in 8-10 Coq de Leon feather fibers about the length of the hook shank with one layer of orange thread back to behind bead. Whip finish and trim thread.
- 4) Start brown thread behind bead and wrap to a point that leaves about two-eye-lengths of hot spot exposed at tail.
- 5) Tie in fine copper wire and 5 or 6 pheasant tail fibers. Advance thread to just behind bead.
- 6) Wrap a body of pheasant tail fibers to just behind bead. Secure and trim excess.
- 7) Counter-wrap wire to behind bead. Secure and trim excess.
- 8) Dub a thorax of bronze peacock right up to the bead. Whip finish and trim thread.

Fish this fly deep in the runs, seams, and pockets. Use it as an anchor fly to drag lighter flies in a multi-fly rig down through the water column. During the FYAO outing, this was my big fish fly of the weekend. Also try tying it in olive, brown, and black.