

Fly of the Month

by Earl Schenberg,

POP (Pheasant-Ostrich-Peacock) Emerger:

MATERIALS:

Hook: Curved emerger or scud hook, sizes 14 through 18.

Thread: Black, 6/0 Danville flat-waxed nylon.

Trailing shuck: A combination of white Antron fibers and pheasant tail tips; the shuck is about half the length of the body.

Abdomen: Twisted bundle of pheasant tail fibers.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Legs: Five or six dark hackle fibers tied to each side of the body.

Wing: Ostrich herl tied paraloop-style over the thorax.



INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1. Start the tying thread about one third of the way down the hook shank. Wrap a smooth thread base, covering about half of the body area. Make a trailing shuck with a small bundle of white Antron fibers, extending about half of the length of the body.

Step 2. Now add four pheasant tail fibers on top of the Antron to complete the trailing shuck; allow the pheasant tips to extend about half a body-length beyond the hook, even with the Antron. Bind the pheasant tail securely to the hook shank with several wraps of tying thread.

Step 3. Tie a second group of four pheasant tail fibers to the end of the fly, gather the pheasant tail bundle above the hook shank and twist a half-dozen times to reinforce the collected strands. Wrap the pheasant tail bundle up the hook shank in touching turns to make the abdomen, covering half of the tying area. Once you anchor the pheasant tail bundle with tying thread, you can trim the excess body bundle from the hook.

Step 4. Secure a three-inch loop of black 3/0 monocord to the top of the fly, the thread loop is used to form the paraloop wing. (Note: The author used light brown thread so it would be more obvious in the remainder tying sequence.

Step 5. Prepare an ostrich herl by stripping the fuzz from a one half inch section of the herl and then secure the ostrich herl by the bare stem to the hook at the base of the paraloop.

Step 6. Warp the ostrich herl stem up the thread paraloop in five or six open spirals using the bare section of the herl. Counter-wrap the herl back down the paraloop in tight spiral wraps, producing a dense herl brush the length of the abdomen. Tie off the herl at the base of the paraloop and trim off any excess herl.

Step 7. Now add five or six stiff hackle fibers along each side of the thorax area to represent emerging legs. Tie in two peacock herl at the base of the paraloop, twist gently to reinforce, and wrap the peacock bundle around the hook shank to form a thorax. Secure and trim the excess peacock herl behind the hook eye, leaving a hook-eye's worth of distance between the end of the thorax and the eye.

Step 8. Pull the ostrich herl brush forward over the peacock thorax and secure the paraloop with several wraps of tying thread. Now trim the excess loop and complete the fly with a thread head and whip finish.

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HOW TO FISH:

This little fly could be one of your go to flies. Fished in film it is a magnet for trout. You can also fish it as a second fly below a weighted fly. If fished this way, one should add a little weight to the leader above the P.O.P. to get it down in the water column.