

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Pettis UnReal Egg

Love 'em or hate 'em... Egg imitations catch fish. Here in Missouri, we have two main bloodlines of trout – one that spawns in the spring while the other spawns in the fall (at least theoretically). This strategy ensures that Missouri's trout hatcheries have a constant supply of spawn-ready brood stock and a constant source of trout for Missouri's anglers. In addition, these trout are always instinctively ready to take advantage of any available eggs. Whether you use it as an attractor pattern or your fish catching pattern, no one can deny the effectiveness of egg flies. This pattern is really a good imitation of what a fish egg should be. The amber bead is translucent and the egg yarn gives a 3-D look and adds a dimension of color. In addition, the plastic bead is almost neutrally buoyant so while it does sink readily, it tumbles naturally along the bottom rather than catching in the rocks. It does take longer to sink than a tungsten bead Y2K, but it really acts like a real egg in the water.



Hook: TMC 2457 size 8-12

Thread: 8/0 Fire Orange

Bead: Translucent Amber egg bead

Sheath: Early Girl colored McFly Foam egg yarn

- 1) Mount hook in vise and slide bead onto hook (yes it will go over the hook eye).
- 2) Start thread behind hook eye.
- 3) Tie in a 1 inch length of McFly Foam section split in half extending out the front of the hook so that it surrounds the whole hook shank. Whip finish and trim thread.
- 4) Push the bead toward the hook eye so that it covers the butt ends of the egg yarn you just tied in.
- 5) Start thread behind the bead.
- 6) Pull the egg yarn back around the bead so that it envelopes the bead evenly.
- 7) Tie off egg yarn behind the bead so that the egg yarn covers the bead but is not pulled too tight.
- 8) Trim excess egg yarn, whip finish, and trim thread.

I tie this in a couple of sizes – my favorite in about ¼ inch in diameter, but the larger sizes work as well. These work best dead-drift near the stream bottom, but can also be suspended at any depth with a dropper fly attached below it. Either way, give this pattern a try. Just watch it in the water and you'll see why it works so well.