

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott



George Daniel's Jiggy Prince Nymph

While tying with George Daniel last week, I realized most of the advances in fly tying come from new materials and some new ideas about how we reinterpret traditional fly design. While many of the flies used in George's Euro-Nymphing, competition-style fly fishing are a departure from what many of us tie as classic patterns, most are just variations on the classics designed to perform in a specific situation. This fly is a very durable, very easy to tie version of the ever popular prince nymph. Instead of the goose biot tails and wings, George uses durable and wiggly Span-Flex and ties it on a jig barbless hook and tungsten bead.

- Hook: Barbless Jig Hook #12-16
- Bead: Slotted Tungsten of appropriate size
- Thread: 8/0 Black or Brown
- Tail: Brown Span-Flex or FlexiFloss
- Ribbing: Small Gold Wire
- Body: Peacock Herl
- Hackle: Brown Partridge
- Wings: White Span-Flex or FlexiFloss

- 1) Slide bead onto hook and secure hook in vise. Make 5 or 6 wraps of lead wire behind bead and push up against the bead to keep it against the hook eye.
- 2) Start thread behind the lead wraps. Wrap forward to cover the lead leaving thread just behind the lead.
- 3) Fold over a length a brown Span-Flex and tie in just behind the lead. Bind down to hook shank back to the bend of the hook. Trim to length about 1 ½ the hook shank length.
- 4) Tie in gold wire ribbing and then 4 or 5 strands of peacock herl.
- 5) Wrap peacock to just behind the bead, tie off, and trim excess.
- 6) Counter rib the peacock with the gold wire to just behind the bead, tie off, and trim excess.
- 7) Tie in brown partridge feather by the tip and make 1 or 2 wraps to form a collar. Tie off and trim excess.
- 8) Tie in one piece of white Span-Flex on each side. Trim to about the end of the body.
- 9) Whip finish and trim thread.

Fish this just like the original – dead drift under an indicator or as a point fly of a multi-fly Euro-Nymph leader using a sighter. The jig hook allows you to fish just a little deeper with less hang-ups, and the tungsten bead and lead wraps gets it down deeper faster. Keep experimenting.