

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

“Biscuit” Pheasant Tail Nymph

I must say, my wife has a great eye for fly patterns. Seems like every time I scoff at some new concoction of feathers, fluff, and steel, she goes out and proves me wrong about it. I admit it... I was wrong about the pink hoppers; I was wrong about the psycho prince; and I was wrong about that purple midge. This time, however, I completely agree.

She spotted this fly somewhere online and this one has it all. If you've ever been in one of the members' classes, you know what I like in a fly: pheasant tail, peacock herl, dubbing, and partridge. The body is slim tapering slightly to the well-defined thorax finishing with finely- barred soft swimmy legs. What's not to like?!



Hook: Dai-Riki #070 Size 14-16
Thread: 12/0 Brown
Weight: .015 Lead Wire (optional)
Tail: Pheasant Tail Fiber Tips
Body: Pheasant Tail Fibers
Ribbing: Brassie-Size Copper Wire
Thorax: Dead Orange Sow/Scud Dubbing
Wing Case: Peacock Herl
Legs: Hungarian Partridge Hackle Fibers

- 1) Secure hook in vise and make 5-7 turns of lead wire at thorax. Secure in place with thread wrap.
- 2) Tie in ribbing on top of hook shank starting just behind the lead at the thorax and secure to hook as you advance thread to hook bend just opposite the hook barb.
- 3) Tie in 5-7 pheasant tail fibers on top of the hook shank with their tips extending back about the length of the body. Only use 3 or 4 thread wraps to secure being careful not to build too much bulk.
- 4) Pull the fibers out of the way and advance the thread to the thorax. Wrap a slim, slightly tapered body of the pheasant tail fibers to the thorax. Tie off and trim excess.
- 5) Tie in three pieces of peacock herl on top of the thorax extending back over the body.
- 6) Dub a tight thorax of the Sow/Scud dubbing to just behind the hook eye.
- 7) Tie in partridge hackle fiber legs – about 8-10 on each side of the thorax- extending to the hook barb.
- 8) Pull peacock herl over the thorax to form a wing case and secure with several wraps of thread. Trim closely and form a neat head with thread wraps. Whip finish and trim thread.

I liked this pattern so much, I tied them in two sizes unweighted, weighted with lead wire, and weighted with a gold tungsten bead. Fish this like any other pheasant tail nymph, but make sure you let it swing and rise at the end of the drift. I will let you know how it works after the Montauk outing, because we will most definitely fish this one.