

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Quilldigon Nymph

Still channeling Devin Olsen, I love this little perdigon. Traditional perdigons are made with tinsel or other shiny body material, but I have a personal aversion to non-nature-inspired patterns. I prefer the natural colors and segmented bodies suggesting a mayfly, caddis, or stonefly nymph. I prefer the BWO perdigon in particular. It has a fine tail, smooth tapered segmented body, and a dark wing case indicative of an emerging nymph. Perdigons – Spanish for bullet – fish deeper than traditional nymphs because of their streamlined design and smooth finish.



Hook: OrientSun 5240 Heavy-Wire Jig Hook #16 - 18

Bead: appropriately sized Silver Slotted Tungsten

Thread: Veevus 14/0 Brown

Tail: Coq de Leon

UV Spot: UV Pearl Flashabou or Crystal Flash

Body: Polish Stripped Peacock Quill - olive

Wing Case: Black Nail Polish

Coating: Solarez Bone Dry UV-Cure Resin

1. Position the bead on hook and secure hook in vise. Start thread just behind the bead and use several wraps to secure the bead, then advance thread to the hook bend.
2. The key to a perfect perdigon is building a smoothly tapered under body.
3. Tie in 4 – 6 CDL fibers for the tail about as long as the body and wrap over butts to just behind the bead. Trim excess. Tie in one strand of Flashabou just behind the bead and wrap down to about three thread wraps from the tail.
4. Wrap the UV material back to the tail and back to the thread. Tie off the Flashabou and wrap down to just behind the bead and trim excess. Making smooth thread wraps, build up and smooth tapered underbody ending with the thread just in front of the tag.
5. Tie in the stripped quill by the narrow end with the black stripe toward the tail with several thread wraps. Advance thread to the bead.
6. Make touching wraps of the quill covering the thread underbody evenly with no gap to the bead and tie off. Trim excess neatly, and finish with neat whip finishes. You could also add a hot-spot collar here too.
7. Add a dot of black nail polish to the top of the bead and the collar. Let dry before coating with UV resin.

I fish this as part of my various euro-nymph rigs, but it also fishes well under an indicator. Try it in olive, natural, brown, and orange. You will be surprised at how deep this fly will sink with even the smallest tungsten bead.