

Fly of the Month

November-Peacock Wet Fly

Text from Ed Story's Missouri Trout Flies

I originally called this little wet-fly the Winter-Peacock. I changed the name to November-Peacock in celebration of our Missouri "winter trout season" a few years ago. The only thing special about the pattern is that it has a peacock-herl body. I've said that if you do nothing but wrap peacock-herl around any hook-shank, you have a pretty good trout fly. And this pattern looks very much like other wet-fly patterns using peacock-herl for the fly body. Nothing original about that. Its only after you tie and fish the pattern, that you become so fond of it.



I tie it in the two sizes mentioned, and its been a very good winter fly for me. When the hard- woods put a vale of black over the late "winter- water", we must change our thinking or we fail to take trout! Be very cautious (stealth) when entering the section of water to be fished. Gentle presentations over flat dark looking, but gin-clear water are necessary. On these waters I use the size 16 (below). As gently as possible I cast the fly up and across the stream. Then I allow it to dead-drift, finding its own-depth relative to drag and current. Then I gently twitch the fly along with the rod-tip. Then speed the twitch up to a "skip" using the rod- tip. At the end of the drift I use the Leisenring- Lift. Often enough to keep the pattern in my fly box...one of these methods works. Lets tie..."

HOOK: Mustad 3906 size 16, TMC 3761 size 14 (TMC 3761 size 14 my favorite)

THREAD: Danville Flymaster size 6/0 RED #56

WEIGHTED: "FINE" copper-wire size 16, 8- 10 wraps .025 lead-wire size 14(under thorax)

TAIL: Feather-fibers from a GREEN- ALMOND ringneck pheasant feather

BODY: 2-strands peacock-herl size 16, size 14, 3-strands peacock-herl

HACKLE: V-NOTCHED feather-fibers from a green-almond ringneck pheasant feather

1. Build the thorax area up on the size 16 with fine copper-wire. Use 10-wraps of .025 lead- wire under thorax-area of hook-shank on size 14. Tie thread in behind hook-eye and wrap to end of hook-shank, locking in "wire" as you wrap. Tie in a tail of 5-8 feather-fibers from the green-almond feather, (always cut-away waste as you tie)
2. Tie-in two peacock-herls (3-for size 14) at the end of the hook-shank. Before tying herl in..lay them in opposite-directions of each other. Wrap the thread up to just behind the hook-eye and let it hang there on the bobbin.
3. ALL AT THE SAME TIME..wrap the peacock-herl up to the waiting thread and tie in with a few thread-wraps. Wrap the thread "back" to a point just behind where the finished fly head is going to be. Cut away waste herl & keep for next fly.
4. V-NOTCH a GREEN-ALMOND feather. Gently pull back & out of the way all but 4- feather-fibers on each side of the feather-stem. Lay the V-Notched feather down on top of the fly body (color-side up) at the waiting-thread. Tie it in with a few "soft-thread-wraps". Hold the feather-fibers to the side and slightly lower than the fly body, while you gently pull the fibers through the soft thread-wraps "sizing" the hackle-length as you pull..so that the tip- ends of the fibers extend no further back than the hook-bend. Tighten-up the thread-wraps & finish the fly head and whip-finish. The hackles should be on the side of the fly body (4-each side) and facing down.