

Fly of the Month

Dick Ryan

C.R. Gold

Hook: Mustad 9674 size 10 (original) other hooks of your choice
Tread: Danville prewaxed color #100 black in series 3/0 or 6/0
Body: Gold "Sparkle Wool" from India or sub Sparkle-Yarn 3 strand unraveled.
Feelers & Tail: Size "fine" strands of rubber leg material
Hackle: India Furnace saddle hackle reverse palmer wrapped
Back: Peacock Herl strands
Weighted: Full length of hook shank with .025 lead-wire



1. Tye in two strands of size "fine" rubber leg material, full length of hook shank, allowing two strands to stick out the back of the hook shank for one inch as the tail.
2. Allow two strands to stick out the front of the hook shank for 1/2 inch as the feelers.
3. Over wrap the full length of the hook shank with .025 lead wire.
4. Run thread to the end of the hook shank.
5. Tye in one furnace India saddle hackle prepared to be "reverse" Palmer Wrapped.
6. Tye in four strands of peacock herl.
7. Tye in a six inch length of gold Sparkle Wool.
8. Wrap the thread up to just behind the hook eye.
9. Wrap the gold Sparkle Wool up the hook shank forming the fly body and tye in behind the hook eye.
10. Reverse Palmer Wrap the furnace saddle hackle up to just behind the hook eye and tye in.
11. Pull the peacock herl strands over the top of the fly body and tye in just behind the hook eye.
12. Whip finish the fly head.

To Fish: I've fished this fly deep using a sink tip fly line and eighteen inches of four pound tippet. It can be skipped or allowed to dead drift just off the stream bottom.

On a cold winter evening after experiencing an ample dose of cabin fever, I got out my fly tying materials and started imaging what if I took the impressionistic qualities of the woolly worm and modified it to look more like a stone fly. I wanted a fly with lots of movement and could represent a number of food items to the fish.

It was first tested at the Ozark Fly Fishers Current River outing back in the mid-eighties. There was a massive cicada hatch erupting in the Ozarks at that time and the river was loaded with eager trout. The timing was perfect. If I had tried the C. R. Gold when the river was not so cooperative, the fly may never have had a second chance.

I was talking with Ed Story at Feather-Craft a short time later and mentioned it to him and gave him a few samples. He said he was going down to fish the Meramec and would give it a try. He fished it with much success and asked me if I had given it a name yet and I said not really. He offered to name it the C.R. Gold and the rest is history.

He later published the fly pattern in his Missouri Trout Fly's-How to Tye and Fish Them book.

It became very popular on the local streams around Missouri and Arkansas. I used it successfully in Michigan on steelhead. Tom Widman, one of Ozark fly Fishers past presidents took it to England and New Zealand and had good luck using it there also.

The C.R. Gold in various sizes has performed well also with largemouth, smallmouth and bluegill.

The secret to fishing this fly successfully is to fish it on or near the bottom in runs and shoals, with a dead drift technique. A strike indicator can be helpful. The fly has to be presented to the fish as a living insect that has just broken loose from a rock on the bottom of the stream. The trick is to stay in touch with the fly but allow a drag free presentation. Let the fly drift until it is straight down stream below you. Gradually lift the fly to the surface and twitch it a few times before recasting.