



Shop Vac

Submitted by Todd Wichmann

Materials:

Hook: TMC 2487, size 14 to 20

Bead: Gold, sized to hook

Thread: UTC, black, 70 denier (or 8/0)

Rib: Gold wire, size appropriate to hook

Body: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Wing: White Zelon

Tying Instructions:

1. Crimp barb of hook and slide appropriate size bead onto the hook.
2. Start the thread just behind the bead and tie in the wire rib.
3. Wrap thread over the rib, holding it to the side of the hook shank, and continue down to the hook bend. Return wrap the thread to behind the bead.
4. Cut pheasant tail fibers from a center tail feather. (Use about four fibers for size 20 to 22, four to six fibers for a size 18, six to eight fibers for a size 16, and about eight fibers for a size 14.) Trim tips to align them and attach to hook just behind the bead.
5. Wrap down the shank over the tail fibers, keeping them on top of the hook shank. Wrap down to bend of hook and back up to behind the bead as you did for attaching the rib.
6. Grasp the tail fibers and wrap them to behind the bead. Secure them with a couple wraps of thread and trim.
7. Counter-wrap the rib over the pheasant tail fibers so that you reinforce them and wrap forward with nicely spaced turns to just behind the bead.
8. Tie off the rib with a few wraps of thread and trim.
9. Take one strand of Zelon for a size 14, or a half strand for a size 16 or 18, or about a quarter strand for a size 20 and smaller, leaving enough forward over the bead so that you can double it back over towards the butt in the next step, and attach it just behind the bead with a few wraps of thread,. (Many times the thread will “pull” the Zelon down into the space behind the bead which is **good** – it helps minimize the bulk behind the bead.)

10. Fold over the Zelon that was lying forward over the bead so that you've "doubled it up" and wrap with thread. Use enough wraps to secure the Zelon so that it's lying down rather than standing upright, but not so many wraps that you create too much bulk and too large a head. (Practice will make perfect...)
11. Trim the Zelon strands so that their length is even with the hook barb.
12. Whip finish the head behind the bead and apply head cement to secure.

Suggested Combinations:

Hook Size	Bead Size	Wire Size
14	3/32"	Med to Sm
16-18	5/64"	Sm
20-22	1/16"	Sm

Comments: While it works great on its own, it can be a dynamite dropper fly hung beneath a hopper, terrestrial or dry fly. You can use a TMC 2457 if you want a bit heavier wire to help sink it faster, or you can use a tungsten bead to help in that regard, too. You can do both for the faster waters that you'll see out west or on a bigger freestone stream. It's a very simple fly to tie, lasts a long time, and catches good size fish!

Species Caught: brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout