

On The Fly

August 2007

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

PATTERN OF THE MONTH-Tiger Paw

Hook: Standard salmon/steelhead size 2-8.
Thread: 6/0 black.
Tag & Rib: Oval copper tinsel.
Tail: Black hackle barbs.
Body: Black chenille.
Wing: Copper Crystal Flash.
Collar: Black hackle



Tying Instructions:

- 1) Start the thread 2 eye-widths back and wrap the thread to a point just above the hook point.
- 2) Tie in the oval copper tinsel and wrap it forward 3 tight turns to form the tag. Do not trim the tinsel as it will be used for the rib.
- 3) Tie in a small bunch of black hackle barbs on top of the hook at the base of the tinsel for a slightly cocked tail. The barbs should extend past the bend of the hook.
- 4) Tie in the black chenille and wind it forward to the front thread marker. Tie it off and trim it.
- 5) Counter-wind the tinsel forward in 5 even turns through the chenille. Tie it off and trim it.
- 6) Select about 20 strands of the copper Crystal Flash and tie in at the front of the body. This should cock the flash at the proper 45 degree angle. Trim the flash even with the hook bend.
- 7) Select a black hackle long enough to reach the hook point, tie it in by the tip, take 3 turns to form the hackle collar, and then tie off the hackle.
- 8) Form a neat tapered head, whip finish and apply cement.

This popular Rogue River Steelhead pattern was actually developed for the Umpqua River in the 1980's by Joe Howel. Since that time it has also become an effective producer on the Dechutes and in British Columbia. Smaller sizes seem to work best on our home water for summers and half-pounders.

TYING TIPS

This is a fairly easy tie using common materials, but proportions are essential for success. Pay close attention to the length of each component as it is tied on and trimmed. Note that the wing is tied behind the collar hackle. You can achieve the proper angle by attaching it very close to the chenille tie-in point. If you need a steeper angle take a couple thread turns behind the wing material for extra support. Orange Crystal Flash can be substituted for copper color. Vary the size for the area and conditions. So tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you did.