

On The Fly

February 2013

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

PATTERN OF THE MONTH – “Close To”

Hook: 1760 Daiichi – 1260 Daiichi for lighter wire hook 10-20
Bead Head: Pearl white to match hook size
Thread: Red
Weight: Lead (where permitted)
Tail: Red pheasant tail
Abdomen: Red dyed turkey biot (ribbed w/red thread, lacquer under & on top)
Wing case: Pearl Mylar and red goose shoulder, coated when done w/UV wader patch
Thorax: Light shade rainbow scud dub (Hare Line) or rainbow warrior dub (Wapsi)
Legs: Pheasant tail tied in A.P. (Andre Puyans) style



The fly that I've chosen for this month is the “Close To”. OK, that is a stupid name, but I had to call it something and “Near Enough” is already taken. I came up with it when my fishing partner & fellow guide, Jim Ulm, started catching steelhead and trout on Red Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Rainbow Warriors and a lake fly, the Red Ice Cream Cone. So what would happen if I combined all three? Well, I have since taken Rainbows, Cuttys, Steelhead and even the choosy bows on Hat Creek on my concoction. Most tyers feel they have to tweak patterns. This is fun and sometimes it even works!

Tying Tips:

Learn to use the smallest thread you can. Smaller thread eliminates build up and makes neater heads. When I started tying, we only had Nymo A silk thread. Now we have down to 16/0 that is stronger than some 6/0.

When I use lead I want it to be slid inside of the bead head to keep it from moving.

After tying in tail and biot, I will loop thread and after wrapping biot forward 2/3 of hook shank, I will rib with thread to strengthen. I like to use the smallest thread I can get away with, then lacquer over the thread and biot. The rest is fairly straight forward.

As for the coating of the wing case, you can use 5 min. epoxy, but I have found that epoxy will yellow and sometimes chip off. With the UV wader patch, you can assemble a whole box of flies, take them out in the sun and in 10sec the shell back is done. If the sun hasn't been shining, you can use a black light bulb (available from Grover's) in a covered fixture and it may take 20sec to harden.

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CAUTION: DO NOT LOOK AT THE BLUB, BAD FOR YOU EYES!