

On The Fly

November 2012

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

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: Beadhead Serendipity

Hook: Daiichi 1130, Curved scud, 14-20.
Bead: Gold, size to match hook.
Thread: 8-0 brown.
Body: Olive Z-Lon twisted.
Thorax: Natural Hare's mask fur dubbing.



Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Mash the barb, slip a bead on the hook small hole first, and mount the hook in the vise.

Step 2: Start the thread just behind the bead and build up enough thread to hold the bead in place up against the eye. A drop of head cement here will help also.

Step 3: Select a length of Z-Lon or poly yarn, thin it to match the hook size, and tie it on top of the hook shank just behind the bead. Bind it down rearward to a point half way around the hook bend. Return the thread forward to behind the bead.

Step 4: Grab the poly yarn material with a hackle pliers about 2 inches below the hook shank and spin clockwise until the fibers are twisted into a tight rope. With the hackle pliers wind the rope forward in touching turns to the bead. Tie off and trim excess.

Step 5: Dub a small amount of hare's ear dubbing to the thread and wind on forming a thorax about 1/8" wide. Tie off and remove excess dubbing.

Step 6: Whip finish just behind the bead, cement, and pick out a few guard hairs on the thorax.

The Beadhead Serendipity is one of many variations of the Serendipity that is actually an old pattern from Europe where it is known as a Buzzer. The late Ross Marigold, a Madison River guide, is credited as the creator of today's version. The pattern started out as a smooth floss body of brown or olive with a gold wire ribbing. Ross added a clipped deer hair wing to the fly just behind the eye. Later, he modified the body with a twisted floss or Antron yarn to give the appearance of a segmented body and spun the deer hair for the head. In 1988 Ross introduced the fly to Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies utilizing Z-Lon for the body. In the version listed above we have replaced the deer hair head with a beadhead and a hare's ear thorax.

Beadhead nymphs attract trout in a couple ways that standard nymphs do not. They add extra weight to take the fly down quickly but most important the bead resembles a flash that many natural nymphs and pupae acquire when they create a bubble of air between their inner and outer skins just before emergence. Some feel that a bead also adds a jigging action that the trout like. Whatever the reasons, they do work very well. Any standard nymph can be tied with a bead added to the head.

Tying Tips

Since the Beadhead Serendipity imitates a wide range of aquatic insects a wise man would do well to tie several in all four sizes. The trick here is to create a rope that is proportionate to the hook size. Just adjust the quantity of poly fibers selected from the hank. Color variations include olive, brown and copper colors or mixtures of two or more. Australian opossum dubbing can be substituted for the Hare's ear. This is an easy tie using common and inexpensive materials. So tie some up, give them a test flight and let me know how you do.