

EP STREAMER



By Bob Bates

Here is a fly that really attracted my attention at the 2006 FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Bozeman, MT. Norm Domagala, Alpine, OR (near Monroe) had a fly box almost filled with them at his tying table. He uses them in the Oregon high Cascade lakes. He either casts from shore or mooches the fly from a floating device. Norm emphasized that when mooching, move very slowly you can't row too slowly. Sometimes wind drifting will work. If that fails, use a variety of retrieves until something works. Some of the lakes have chubs and stickle back minnows in them so the fish might think this fly is the usual good size meal.

The pattern uses a material called EP Brush that is manufactured by Enrico Puglisi , www.epflies.com There might be other materials that would work, but the EP materials have an appearance that is attractive to most fish. The EP materials find wide use in salt water patterns and some fresh water patterns like this one. The "epflies" website has a list of retailers. But if your fly shop is not listed you can always talk to them about getting some from Hareline Dubbin, Inc. in Monroe, Oregon. Norm also handles the material in his shop, Alpine Fly's and Photo's, 24451 Alpine Rd, Monroe, Oregon 97456 (541) 914-3180, e-mail: fshnorm@peak.org

Norm took the step pictures, and I manipulated them for the web.

Material list:

Hook: Daiichi 2220, 4XL Sizes 6 & 8

Thread: Uni F70 Olive

Cone Head: Gold, small

Tail: Pine Squirrel Zonker FL. Chartreuse, 3/32-inch wide

Body: EP Streamer Brush 06 Reddish Olive

Hackle-1 : Whiting Brown Spey Hackle

Hackle-2 : Whiting Orange Spey Hackle

Hackle-3 : Whiting Brown Spey Hackle

Last Layer/ Collar: EP Anadromous Brush 01 Sky Blue

Tying Steps:



1. Put hook upside down and slide on cone head. Then return it a normal position. Put thread on back 3/8ths of hook. (Sometimes Norm replaces the cone head with a thread head, attaches 3D eyes and coats the head with 5-minute epoxy. He flattens the area where the eyes will be attached with pliers, and sometimes uses a glue stick (Elmer's) to help stick the eyes. Rotate the vise after applying a coat of 5-minute epoxy to even it out. A true rotary vise is needed here.)



2. Put a drop of super glue on back of hook, and tie down squirrel tail at the bend of the hook. Trim it to a length equal to the hook shank.



3. Tie on red olive EP Streamer Brush.



4. Wrap it forward in a not too tight spiral. Stroke the fibers back as you wrap. Wind it forward until it is 1/4-inch from the cone. Use a bodkin to pull out any fibers that were tied down.



5. Flatten stem of brown hackle to make it wrap better. Don't trim or pull off webby part of hackle. Tie it in so the webby part of the hackle will be wrapped first.



6. Grab feather by the tip and wrap the webby part twice while stroking the fibers back.



7. Secure hackle, and trim excess tip. Moisten fingers and stroke fibers back. Wind thread rearward to make the fibers point rearward if necessary. Comb the hackle back to marry it with the EP Streamer Brush.



8. Flatten stem of orange hackle, tie it on hook.



9. Wrap orange hackle two or three times around hook. Pull fibers back as the feather is wrapped. Moisten fingers and stroke the fibers back. Wind thread rearward if necessary to make the fibers stay pointing back. Comb fibers back into the other hackle and EP Streamer Brush.



10. Attach another brown hackle, wrap it, stroke fibers rearward as feather is wrapped and marry all of the fibers using a bodkin.



11. Trim excess brown feather and attach the EP Anadromous Brush.



12. Stroke fibers back while wrapping EP Anadromous Brush forward two or three turns, secure and trim excess EP Anadromous Brush. Put a little head cement on 1.5 inches of thread and whip finish twice. Use a comb to marry all of the fibers and give the fly a nice taper. Stroking with moistened fingers will help shape the fly. Push cone head back into the fibers, bring thread to front of cone head, build a small thread block, put a little head cement on thread and whip finish.

Closing comments: This pattern could be very useful in several waters near my home. One of them has nice rainbows and browns that should like a big mouthful like the EP Streamer. Another has big fussy rainbows that recently have taken a liking to white crosscut rabbit patterns. This is different enough to really attract them.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org