

## SHOP VAC



By Bob Bates

This is a go to fly for many anglers. It is a generic pattern representing many different insects. With its white wing and brass bead it has been called a great searching pattern. Roger Thompson, Inkom, ID tied this one at the 2009 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo in Idaho Falls, ID. It was developed years ago by Craig Mathews and company at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, MT

It can be used in streams or lakes. One reference said that it most effective in tail waters, but it is excellent in freestone waters. Any type of fly line can be used depending how deep you want to fish it. Some anglers use it as a dropper from a high floating pattern like a stonefly, hopper or may fly. When fishing it deep in a stream, adjust the length of the leader to be twice the estimated depth of the water. Then cast upstream so it will sink as it comes back to you. Watch end of the fly line to detect a strike. If you are using a floating pattern as a strike indicator be sure to watch it carefully. If the floating pattern does anything strange like stop, move upstream or sideways, tighten your line. It might be a rock or a nice brown trout. I usually don't STRIKE because that is when the tippet breaks. I just tighten the line, and if it wiggles it is probably a fish.

In lakes you can use a floating line or any of the sinking lines to put the fly in the proper place. Let the fly sink to where you think the fish are, and then retrieve the fly in a manner to attract the fish. Books have been written on the subject.

### Materials List:

**Hook:** DaiRiki 135, 14

**Bead:** Brass 3/32 Gold

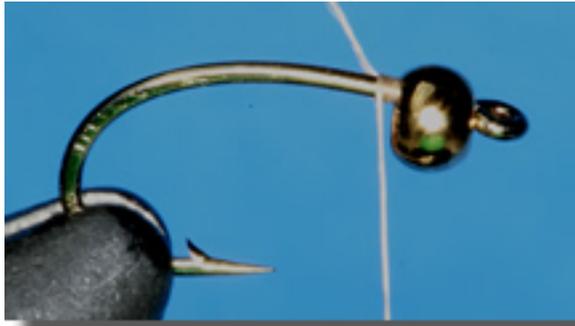
**Thread:** Uni-thread, 8/0 white

**Rib:** Copper wire, small

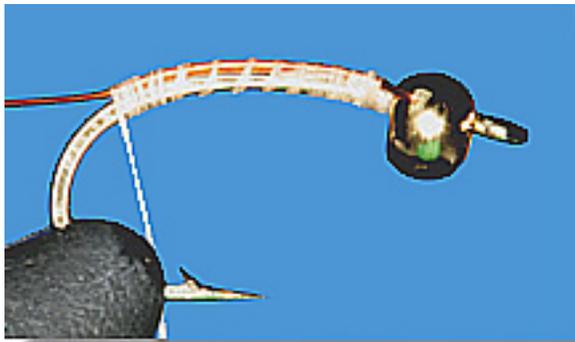
**Body:** Pheasant tail

**Wing:** Darlon, Zelon or Sparkle yarn, white

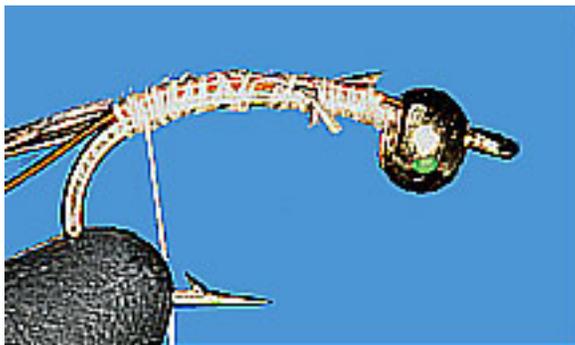
**Tying steps:**



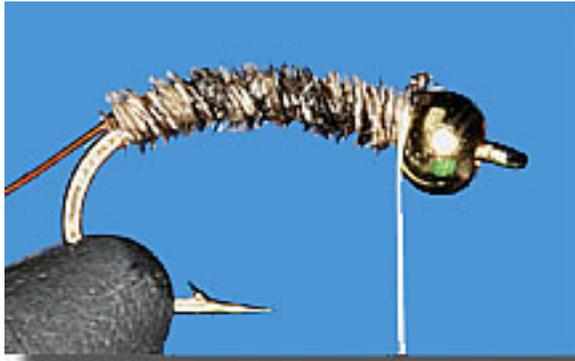
1. Attach thread behind bead.



2. Hold copper wire on top of hook, and wind thread over it to past the barb.



3. Attach 6 or 8 pheasant tail fibers on top of hook.



4. Wind thread forward to just behind the bead, and then wrap pheasant tail fibers forward to bead, secure and trim excess.



5. Spiral the copper wire forward and secure. Wiggle the wire to break it off. Sometimes when the wire is cut, a sharp edge is left that cuts the thread. Also Roger is reluctant to use his good scissors for cutting wire.



6. Select a small bundle of Darlon, and attach it as a wing behind the bead. Trim at back of the body. (Other tiers make shorter wings.)



7. Whip finish, trim thread and coat thread winds with a little head cement.

**Closing comments:** As with any great fly there are a few variations. One tier used chartreuse wire. Another added two winds of lead free wire and shoved it into the back of the bead. Two others added a peacock herl thorax (under the wing and in front of the wing). They all sing the praises of the Shop Vac as a great fish catcher. It is easy to tie, so tie a few and go fishing.

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](mailto:flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org)