

“Pearl Variant Coho Fly”

by Doug Wright *(submitted by Alex Carr)*

This month’s fly pattern has been contributed by Alex Carr. Alex has had a great deal of experience in fishing for coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout, and here is a recent variation which he has conjured up. Like many of us, Alex is “always looking for that elusive magic” when fishing with a wide array of original, trustworthy patterns and his own adaptations. This is one of those variations.

Alex has fished this pattern all over, from local sloughs and the Stave and Harrison Rivers to the beaches of Vancouver Island while chasing staging coho. Although he has had limited success with this pattern, he believes it holds potential when coho are wearily spooky and for winter cutthroat trout as well.

Alex prefers to fish for coho salmon using a floating line with long leader, a Ghost Tip (floating fly line with a clear intermediate head), or a full sinking, clear intermediate. Still or slow-moving portions of water and sloughs are optimal for coho and are where fly anglers should concentrate the majority of their efforts.

Tying Instruction

Materials

Hook:	Straight eye, 4x long nickel plated streamer hook, Tiemco 9394.
Thread:	Fluorescent pink, orange, or red and black 6/0.
Tail:	Red pheasant or schlappen (hackle) fibers.
Underbody:	Fluorescent pink, orange, or red tying thread.
Overbody:	Pearlescent Mylar tinsel.
Gills/Throat:	Fluorescent pink, orange, or red tying thread.
Underwing:	Krystal Flash, colour 2016
Overwing:	Mallard flank.
Head:	Black tying thread (optional: coated with epoxy).
Eyes:	Painted or prismatic stick on eyes.

Step 1

De-barb the hook, start the tying thread and wrap shank. Weight the hook with lead wire or a substitute if desired. Leaving a reasonable amount space for the head, select a small clump of dyed-red pheasant fibers and tie in at the front of the hook, binding the material down to the rear of the shank. Incorporating the tail in this manner creates a smooth, even base which, in turn, will allow for a level body.



Step 2

Tie in a strand of pearlescent Mylar tinsel in the same fashion as was done for the tail. Build a strong, solid-coloured underbody using the tying thread and apply a thin coat of head cement to this completed base for added durability and translucence.



Step 3

Before the head cement hardens, begin winding the pearlescent Mylar tinsel forward as an overbody. Pearl tinsel is translucent and when applied as an overbody, such as in this case, the underbody colour can filter through while the tinsel provides a shimmering effect, giving off highlights of pearlescent flash. Leaving space for the head of the fly, tie off and trim the excess Mylar tinsel. Build up a small, prominent section of tying thread as incorporated in many baitfish imitations to suggest the gills. Whip-finish, trim, and start the black tying thread directly in front of the gills/throat.



Step 4

Tie in a wing consisting of mallard flank which sits over a few strands of pearlescent Krystal Flash or Accent Flashabou. Ensure that it extends no further than the tips of the tail. Build a small, neat head with the tying thread while maintaining visibility of the gills/throat. Whip-finish and apply head cement.



Step 5

Because many believe that the addition of eyes play a very important role on imitations for anadromous game fish, such as the coho salmon, feel free to integrate a pair into this pattern. Stick-on prismatic eyes are easy to apply and one can also use paint dotted with a black permanent marker for the pupils. Coat the head and eyes with epoxy for added durability and shine.



If you have a pattern you'd like to share with club members, let me know and we'll put it in a future issue. Call Will at 604-936-0012 or email me at will.wright@telus.net