

OSPREY FLY BOX

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT

contributed by

John Hay

I think that Kathy Ruddick devised this attractor pattern, but when I first bought a few, they were nameless. The fly got its name a few years later from my friend, Charlie Brumwell. We had spent the afternoon fishing together and this fly was markedly more successful than his offerings. That evening, when we were having a drink, one of the party remarked that there seemed to have been more action at my end of the boat, to which Charlie remarked in a slightly disapproving tone “yes”, but he was using some sort of Christmas Tree Ornament!

I use it when nothing else seems to be working and it is always one of the flies that I give to inexperienced fishermen. I fish it on a sinking line with a series of short quick retrieves. It’s also a good pattern to troll. Most often I use a size 8, although I have some 6’s, 10’s and 12’s in my box as well.

It is a simple fly to tie and has the effective combination of flash from the chenille and bead, and movement from the tail and palmered hackle.

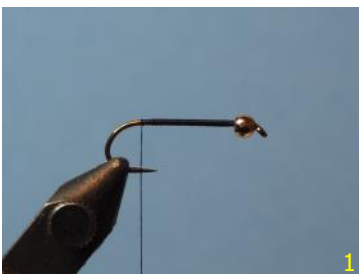


MATERIALS



- Hook:** Daiichi 1710 or similar 2XL hook. Sizes #6 to #12.
- Bead:** Brass, size appropriate for the hook.
- Thread:** Uni 6/0 Black.
- Tail:** Black marabou or a clump of black dog hair or similar fur.
- Body:** Krystal Flash Chenille – Peacock. Medium or small depending on hook size.
- Hackle:** Red cock hackle feather.
- Rib:** Gold wire - Medium.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Debarb the hook and put a bead onto the hook. Put it in the vice. Slide the bead over the bend of the hook and lay down a thread a base. Build up the thread behind eye so the bead has a snug fit. Whipfinish and clip thread. Slide bead to front and reattach thread. Run the thread back to the bend.
2. Tie in a clump of marabou and add a couple of turns over the hook shank and under the tail, then run the thread up to the bead.



TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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3. Tie in the wire, chenille and the tip of a suitable hackle feather. I use a feather with fibres that are a bit longer than the width of the hook gape. I do not remove the fibres from the side that will be wrapped onto the hook because I like the combination of shorter and longer fibres that result after it has been tied in.

4. Wind the chenille up to the bead with touching turns, then tie off.



5. Counterwind the hackle up to the bead using three or four turns for a size 8 hook. Tie in the hackle with 2 or 3 turns of thread, but do not trim the free end. I like to lock in palmered hackles or other feather bodies with wire and find that the wire ties off best if it is wound in the same direction as the thread, so I wrap the hackle in the opposite direction.

6. Wind the wire through the hackle up to the bead with 4 turns for a size 8 hook. Tie in and remove the surplus.



7. Add one or two more turns of the hackle, tie in and trim the end. Whip finish and add a drop of head cement.



Tight Lines & Good Luck!