

OSPREY FLY BOX

Original Copper John

contributed by
John Field

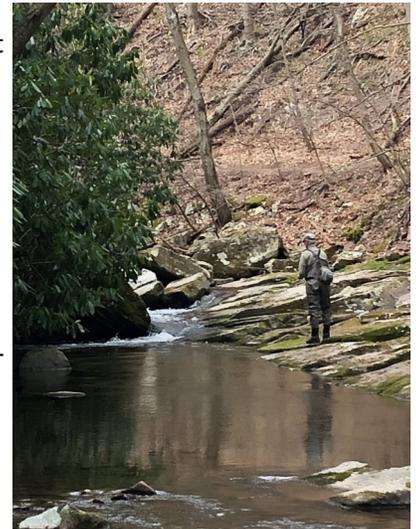
This nymph is not meant to imitate any one particular insect life stage, but is a great attractor pattern. The slim profile, flashy bead, and undulating hackles make it effective when a variety of caddis, midge, and mayfly nymphs might be present for trout to feed on. Developed quite recently, in the 90's, this has become a staple in many fly boxes around the world.

The Copper John's fantastic size to weight ratio means it can be fished without split shot and still get down quickly in moderately fast currents. One of my favorite ways to fish this tiny giant, when regulations allow, is in a hopper/dropper rig with 12-18" of tippet tied to the bend of a foam hopper or Chernobyl ant when there are no rises or obvious hatches going on.

The main reason I chose to write about this fly is that I will always associate it with my earliest days learning to fly fish. That was back on the east coast, in western Maryland, chasing after native Brook Trout in tiny forest streams (fun fact: Lefty Kreh's first trout on a fly was a Brookie from Big Hunting Creek in Maryland). Back then, fly tackle seemed so confusing and

awkward to my spin casting self but a friend patiently got me through those first few years. One of the first flies he introduced me to was a Copper John, and I've kept one in my fly box ever since. Every time I pick one up, I get nostalgic for those first autumn fishing trips under blazing foliage where the fish were small but the captivation was immense.

John on a secret trout stream in Western Maryland



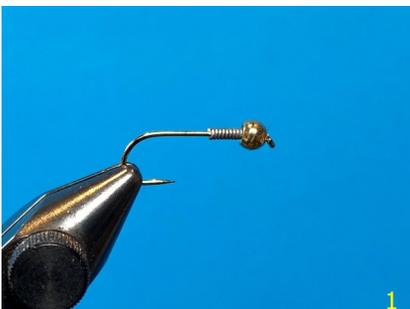
MATERIALS



List of Materials:

- Hook - 2X heavy, 2X long Nymph hook Sizes 10-20
- Bead - Gold Sized to match hook
- Weight - 0.015 Lead Free Wire
- Thread - Black 8/0
- Tail - Brown Goose Biots
- Abdomen - Copper Wire Brassie size
- Wingcase - Large Pearl Flashabou or Mylar over Black Thin Skin or Mylar. Covered with 5 Min Epoxy
- Thorax - Peacock Herl
- Legs - Speckled Brown Hen Hackle

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place the bead on the hook and wrap 10 to 12 turns of Lead free wire behind the bead and push it up into the large opening of the bead.
2. Start the black thread behind the wraps of lead free wire to lock them in place. Continue to wrap the thread back to the hook bend.

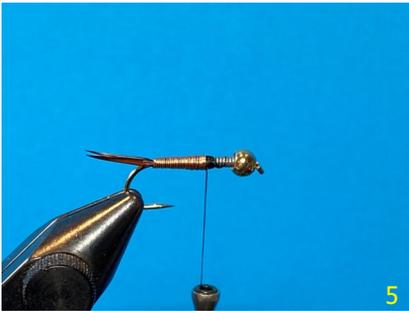


TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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3. Snip two brown Goose Biotics from the stem. Align their tips so they curve away from each other. Tie them in either side of the hook shank so the resulting tail is 1/2 a hook shank in length. Snip the waste Biot ends off even with the end of the lead free wire. Continue to bind them down up to the lead free wire.



4. Place the Copper wire up against the lead free wire and bind down back to the tail. Build a tapered body with thread to about the 3/4 mark.
5. Wind the copper in tight touching turns up to the 3/4 mark and tie off. Helicopter the wire to break it off.



6. Place the large Pearl Flashabou or Mylar behind the bead directly on top of the shank. Do the same with the black Thin Skin or black Mylar.
7. Once the wingcase material is tied in, tie in a single stand of Peacock Herl with the iridescent side closest to you. Then wrap up to behind the bead.



8. Select a speckled hen hackle feather with even tips and nice speckling. Strip off the bottom fibers to isolate the tip and use fine tip scissors to snip out the very end of the feather. Lay the feather on top of the hook with the cupped side facing down and secure with two loose wraps.



9. Pull the Thin Skin over and use two loose wraps of thread to secure. Then pull the hackle feather to leave legs that extend to about the hook point.



10. Pull the Flashabou over and secure with two wraps of thread. Pull all three waste material vertical and snip off. Whip finish and snip the thread.



11. Use 5 minute Epoxy or UV cure to cover the wing case down on to the copper and on to the bead.

Tight Lines & Good Luck!