

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## BEAD HEADED FLASH BACK PHEASANT TAIL NYMPH

by Ken Baker

I was introduced to this variation of an old standby at White lake about five years ago. An angler that I met at Sunny Shore Resort showed me this pattern and since then it has become a staple in my fly box.

I would call this more of a concept fly rather than a specific pattern as I tie this with several variations.

It has produced well both on still waters, in smaller sizes and in streams where I use mainly the larger ones. I tie it from size 6 to 16, with and without beads, but always weighted. It also utilizes adaptations that I have picked up from other tiers over the years along with some of my own thoughts.

On lakes I prefer to use a dry line with a long leader. Wind drifting this fly is a very effective method.

For stream fishing I also use a dry line with a long leader and swing it through. However if you prefer you could also use sinking line for both applications.



*Bead Headed Flash Back Pheasant Tail Nymphs  
in assorted sizes.*

### **MATERIALS**

Hook:	Tiemco 3769, Mustad 3906, or 3906B, Mustad R90, a 4X heavy hook that is great for stream fishing. Pick your poison.
Bead:	Gold or Copper 1/8" to 5/64" depending on hook size.
Weight:	.010 or .015 lead wire.
Thread:	Brown.
Tail:	I prefer moose mane as it seems to be a little more durable than the original pheasant tail.
Rib:	Fine copper wire, natural and I also occasionally use red.
Flashback:	Pearlescent Mylar. It comes in various widths so pick a size to match the size of fly you are tying.
Abdomen:	Pheasant tail.
Thorax:	Peacock herl.
Wingcase & Legs:	Pheasant tail.

### **TYING INSTRUCTIONS**



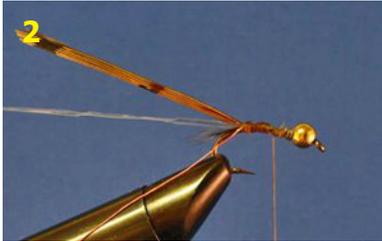
Debarb hook.

Slide the bead on with the small hole to the eye.

Wrap 6 to 8 turns of lead wire on the hook shank and then push them forward. You will be able to get most of the wraps under the tapered hole of the bead.

If some sticks out past the bead not to worry as long as it does not go past the thorax area.

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS** (continued)



Tie in 4 to 6 strands of the moose for the tail, just a little shorter than the overall hook.

Add copper wire then the Mylar flashback on top side of the fly and tie on from the front of the hook. This will give you a slightly fuller abdomen with a very smooth look

Tie on 2 to 4 herls from a natural pheasant tail.



Before wrapping them forward to form the abdomen I like to coat the hook with head cement or good old Sally Hansen's to make the fly a little more durable. Allow to become a little tacky before wrapping the pheasant tail on. Run the herls as far forward as possible then tie off.

Bring the Mylar forward and tie off. Do not cut it just yet as you will be bringing it back to cover the thorax at a latter step.

Counter wind the copper wire rib over the Mylar to the point that it will be under the thorax and break off.

Now tie the Mylar back to the point that you want the thorax to end. I prefer a 1/3 thorax to 2/3 abdomen.



Stack and cut 8 to 10 pheasant tail herls for the legs and wing case. If you place the tips of the herls a little longer than the abdomen when you bring the tips back to form the legs you will get nice long legs. This will add movement to the finished fly.

Tie in some peacock herls for the thorax. I like to wind them around the tying thread for added protection. Build a thorax and tie off.



Bring the pheasant tail forward and tie off with several wraps. Divide the tips in half and fold back on each side of the fly and secure with a few wraps of thread. The legs should sweep back with just a slight downward angle.

Now bring the Mylar over the top of the wing case and make several turns of thread, fold the Mylar back over at this point and tie off.

*The Finished Fly*



*Bead Headed Flash Back Pheasant Tail Nymph*

Trim the Mylar, whip finish, add a drop off your favorite head cement and you are done.

Doubling back the Mylar locks it in place and prevents it from slipping out, a problem I had in earlier versions.