

OSPREY FLY BOX

GIGANTIC EGG SUCKING LEECH

contributed by
Stuart Malkinson

I was introduced to my Gigantic Egg Sucking Leach at the very beginning of my fishing adventures. It called out to me in the fishing shop, and thus I came into possession of my Gigantic. My Gigantic was at its best just before a very strange event, a true account of which I will share with you shortly. The Egg Sucking Leech patterns are controversial. It's hard to imagine leeches going about their daily business sucking on an egg. A lot of things about fly fishing are hard to imagine.

My Gigantic Egg Sucking Leech is big, a full inch and a quarter long. It's best described as a shot in the dark, with a glowing pink head, and wisps of smoke rearward.

The description provides a vital clue as to its proper use. It is deadly on dark winter days. The Gigantic is fished with no subtlety: drop it overboard on a dark winter day, sinking into the deep until it hits bottom. Jerk it, and be rewarded with a trout jerking back.

On the dark morning of December 31, 1998, I was at Morris Lake and the action was very fast and most satisfying. The Gigantic fooled many a large trout. Then the sun came out and the Gigantic went back into the fly box, its purpose amply fulfilled.

My fishing buddy John and I went ashore and decided to explore. We happily strolled down Morris Creek towards the Harrison River. The sun shone brightly, and puddles of water quickly replaced ice. With no warning, I stepped into a hole. The hole was filled with a greenish thick muck, far different from wet cement or gumbo. I thrashed around in the stuff to exhaustion. I kept sinking until I was pinned up to my shoulders. Firm ground was well out of reach, both above

ground and below. There were no stout branches or anything around that might help provide some leverage.

We had no cell phones. We were within sight of the Harrison River, but no boaters were about on New Years Eve. It was two hours back the truck for help. The keys were in my pocket. Unattainable.

The sun disappeared, and ice quickly replaced puddles of water. My thinking became muddled. I shivered uncontrollably entrapped that cold muck. I was in some very serious trouble. Some of you reading this account may have suffered terrifying nightmares something like this, but this was hard, cold reality. All I could do was lay back and take my final look at an unforgiving leaden winter sky.

Eventually, I perceived that my feet and legs were starting to float upwards. I laid back, and found I could move an inch in that hell hole if I moved slowly. I found the will to struggle towards firm ground. I finally got within John's reach, and with his help, I found myself prone on hard cold ground, my body firmly encased from boots to neck in that heavy greenish muck. It was freezing cold, but there was nothing for it but to crawl into Morris Creek. It took time to sluice away enough of that awful stuff to be able to stand up.

I have no memory of getting back to the truck. John tells me it was a far different experience from the happy sunny walk that preceded this terrifying event. I recovered my senses in the truck, heat full on, while John got the inflatables from the shore-line.

I am so very grateful that John and I can still fish together. That day could have had a very different outcome.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Daiichi 2220 Streamer 4XL Hook sizes 4-8
- Weight:** Lead Free Wire (*Optional*)
- Thread:** Uni 6/0 Black & Pink
- Tail:** Marabou Black & Pearl Crystal Flash
- Body:** Medium Chenille Black
- Rib:** Small Silver Wire
- Hackle:** Black Saddle Hackle
- Egg Head:** Medium Chenille Pink (*Orange and Chartreuse*)

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Pinch the barb on the hook, place in the vise. If you want added weight wrap the shank with lead free wire from about the 1/3 point down to the bend.



2. Build a thread dam with the black thread in front of the wire, then wrap over the wire to the back where you form another dam.



3. Take medium sized clump of Marabou and create a tail about a shank length past the bend. Bind the feather down the shank to the start of the wire. Return the thread to the base of the tail and tie in two strands of Crystal Flash on each side of the tail.



4. Return the thread to the start of the wire and tie in the silver wire. Bind down to the tail.



5. Strip off the end of the Black Chenille and bind in at the tail. Return the thread to the front of the wire.

6. Wrap the Chenille up to the thread and tie off.



7. Tie in a Black Saddle Hackle by the stem and palmer it back to the start of the tail. Take the wire and in open spirals zig-zag it through the feather up to the front of the wire. Tie off and with a helicopter motion break the wire. Go back and clip off the tip of the feather.



8. Do a two turn whip finish of the Black Thread and tie in the Pink Thread. Strip off the end of the Pink Chenille and tie it in.



9. Wind the pink Chenille two or three times around the shank to form the Egg. Tie off and cut the excess. Place a dab of head cement on the thread and whip finish.



Tight Lines & Good Luck