

OSPREY FLY BOX

PRINCE NYMPH

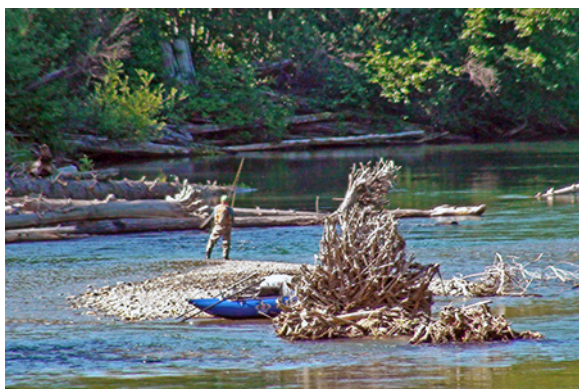
contributed by

Gregg Carpenter

Most of my fly fishing over the last 30 years revolves around moving water. There is just something about being able to drift a river over long stretches of water testing my fishing skills, both in presentation and tying ability.

Over the past few years, I have been having great success with nymph fishing. I tend to spend most of my time on the Skagit River on my pontoon boat. This gives me better access to more spots less travelled by walk in fishers. Most of my success has been attributed to the "Prince" Nymph, or variations thereof .

Below are the tying instructions for my variation one which I had good success with on the Skagit River



Fishing Technique

I start with a rod weight suited for the size of fish and water you plan to fish. I almost always use a weight forward floating line with no sink tips. I vary the length of my leader and tippet relevant to the water conditions I am fishing.

I usually start off with a 9 foot tapered leader with a bead head nymph. I also attach a strike indicator where the leader meets the fly line.

MATERIALS



Depending on speed and depth of the water I will add a split shot to the leader about 1 foot above the fly, usually for those sections of the river where you have a constant flow and water depth.

I cast upstream to allow the fly to get down into the water column by the time the line is 90° from where I am standing. This gives me a longer swing deeper so as to attract whatever happens to be sitting on the bottom.

I may mend once or twice during the drift and prepare for the "take" somewhere between 45° from where I am standing to just as the line "tails out".

It should also be mentioned that any time the strike indicator stops or shows any signs of obstruction during the drift, the chances are a fish is paying attention to the fly.

Adding length to your leader can be achieved in various ways. I choose one of two ways.

Firstly, if I am fishing in deeper slow moving water I will add length with tippet material by a simple blood knot. I may add a second split shot another foot above the first one.

My other choice is to tie on a swivel to the end of my tapered leader, and then add on up to six feet of tippet, usually in the 4 pound test range.

Additional split shots can be added depending on water depth.

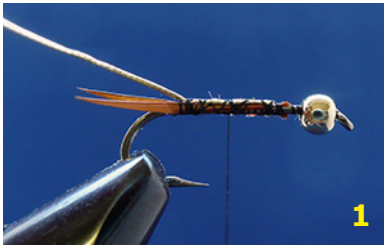
Conversely, you can use a five to six feet of "T" material as a sink tip in order to reduce overall monofilament length, but my observations are that the fly ends up bottom bouncing too much.

Spend some time experimenting to see what works for you. Any number of setups work and I hope I have helped add another style to your arsenal.

- Hook:** Mustad 9671 (*or similar*)
Sizes: #10 to #14
- Thread:** Black 8/0
- Bead:** Gold - 1/8 or 3/32 (*size to match hook*)
- Tail:** Brown Goose Biots
- Rib:** Gold Oval Tinsel - Medium or Small.
- Body:** Peacock Herl (*3 strands*)
- Hackle:** Ginger or Brown Saddle Hackle
- Wing:** White Goose Biots

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

& Photography by Peter Chatt



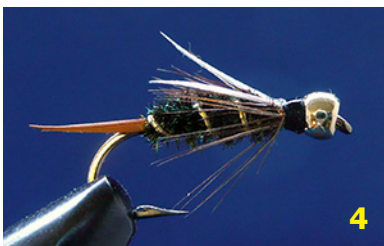
- Debarb the hook.
- Slide a bead onto the hook and place in vice
- Tie in two brown goose biots - one on each of the hook - tied in above the "barb" of the hook.
- Tie in a length of gold oval tinsel for the rib.



- Wind the peacock herl forward to the bead.
- Making sure that enough room has been left for the hackle collar, tie off the herl, and clip the excess.



- Counter wind the oval tinsel forward to the bead - no more than 4 or 5 wraps. Tie off and clip the excess.
- Tie in the saddle hackle by the tip.



- Make 3 or 4 wraps of the hackle for the collar. Tie off and clip the excess.
- Tie the white goose biots in, one at a time making sure they are on top of the hook. Bind them down, trim butts.
- Whipfinish and add a drop of head cement.

The Finished Fly



Prince Nymph

- The Skagit River Nymph should be fished deep on an upstream cast in a "dead drift" fashion. No. 4 or #6 split shot can be added about a foot up the tippet from the hook to promote a better sink. A strike indicator is also recommended to help reading the "take" as many strikes are very subtle.