

OSPREY FLY BOX

BLACK AND PEACOCK SPIDER

contributed by
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I was born and raised in North West England where the typical wet flies were spiders, now known in this part of the world as soft hackles. They are very simple flies usually tied with a slim silk body, sometimes with a wire rib, and then a sparse soft hackle from either game, such as partridge or snipe, or a hen feather. The black and peacock is good example.

These flies are small, usually between size 12 and 16. Over the years I have adjusted the pattern, adding a tail and a bead head, especially when using the fly in a lake. I usually use a black bead, but tie variations with chartreuse or red beads. A fine gold wire rib is standard, but I also use green or red Krystal flash ribbing.

The fly can be fished on a sinking line, but my favourite way to fish it is on a floating line with a long leader. With this technique the bead is essential to get the fly down in the

water column. It probably represents a variety of organisms whether small leeches or nymphs. Regardless, it can be very effective and I have caught fish with it in Britain, Iceland, Argentina and, of course, BC.



MATERIALS



- Hook:** Daiichi 1710, Size #12 to #16 2xl
- Bead:** Cyclops - Black, Chartreuse or Red. Size to match hook
- Thread:** Black, 6/0 or 8/0
- Tail:** Clump of fibres from base of a hackle feather
- Body:** Peacock herl. Two or three strands depending size of hook.
- Rib:** Fine gold wire or Krystal flash. Colour to match a colour of bead
- Hackle:** ideally a black hen feather, but a cock hackle seems work just as well.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Mount the bead and place the hook in the vice. Run the thread to the bend. If the bead fits the hook well, I don't put a thread dam in front of the bead. Tie in a clump of hackle fibres and run the thread back to the bead.
2. Tie in the peacock herl and the wire rib and run the thread back to the tail. If using a Krystal flash rib, make a loop like a dubbing loop and spin the Krystal flash before ribbing the fly. If you don't do this, the Krystal flash straightens out and loses most of its flash.





TYING INSTRUCTIONS

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3. Counterwind the peacock herl back to the bead and tie off. Make 3 or 4 turns of the rib and tie it off. I find that if I don't counterwind the peacock herl, but do counterwind the wire, the wire doesn't tie off as well. Once tied in, helicopter off the wire. A strong rib supports the peacock herl and prolongs the life of the fly.



4. Tie in a hackle with fibres long enough to reach the point of the hook.

5. I vary the number of turns of the hackle, making some flies more dense than others. Once the hackle has your desired number of turns, add some Crazy glue to the thread then whip finish and cut the thread.



Tight Lines & Good Luck!