

Fly Pattern Sheet - Cluster Egg

compliments of 2GuysFlyFishing.net

Hook: Standard wet; #6
Thread: 210 Denier, white
Weight: optional
Eggs: (4) 6mm egg colored beads;
tied on with .011 monofilament
Body: Rabbit fur dubbing brush

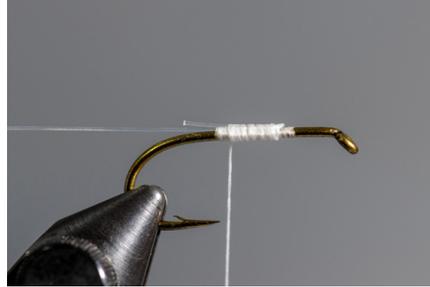


Notes:
This is one of those patterns that came to me as a brain flash. I'm always trying to come up with a pattern that will fool our very selective native species during the annual "salmon harvest hatch".
It uses components from other flies that I've seen in the past; and one day my brain said: "Hey, what if"



Wrap a thread base on the middle half of the shank.

The hook I decided suited this pattern best was a size 6 standard shank, extra heavy. The shank has enough length for the beads and the gape is wide enough to clear the materials.



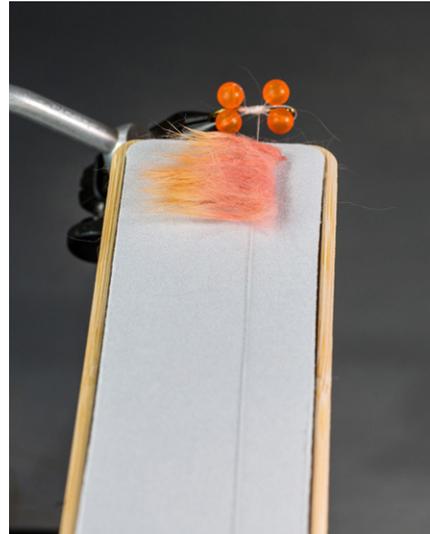
Cut a 5 to 6 inch piece of mono and tie it to the shank. Fold the mono over itself and wrap the tag end down. This keeps the mono from pulling out from the wraps.



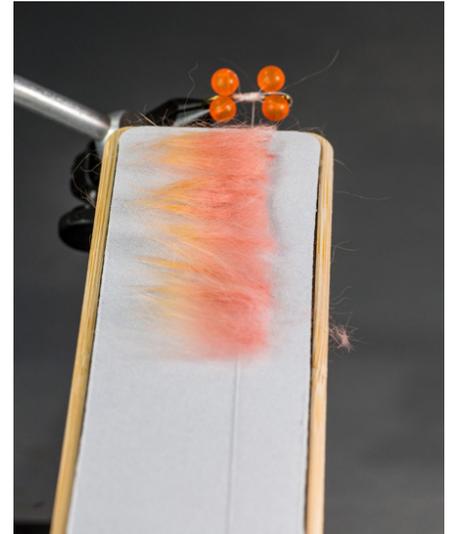
Thread a bead onto the mono and create a loose loop. Tie it down in the center of the shank, keeping the bead on top of the shank.



Repeat this for the other three beads; placing them in each of the upper corners on the shank. After the last bead, the mono tag should be facing the rear; fold it over, tie it down to the front and clip the excess. Leave your thread in the center of the shank.



Adjust your dubbing table so that is slightly higher than the hook shank. Bring your thread over the table and let the bobbin hang. Cut about an inch of dense rabbit fur from the hide. Lay the hair on the table with the butt ends just over your thread. (Longer hair works best.)



Spread the fur down your thread so it covers about three inches.

Try to keep the fur as evenly dense as possible, but know that it's not that critical to the end result. It just creates a more even brush.



Put a dubbing twister in the thread and bring a return thread back up over the fur. Wrap the thread around itself at the fly to close the loop. Bring your thread to behind the eye.
(At this point you can adjust the fur so that the butts are very close to the thread.)



Hold the thread loop at the end of the hair while you but about a bazillion twists in the thread loop that doesn't have any fur in it.
(Try to keep everything in line at this point.)



Simultaneously lift your dubbing twister while you release your finger from the base of the fur. Half of your bazillion twists should run down the thread, spinning the fur into a brush.
Remove the table and work the twists down into the brush.
Lightly pick out the fur with Velcro.



Wrap the dubbing brush around the shank and beads.
(I try to put one wrap behind the rear beads; figure-eight around the rear beads; one wrap at mid-shank; figure-eight around the front beads; then a wrap(s) in front of the beads.)



Tie off your dubbing brush, trim the excess, half hitch and whip finish. Pick out the fur with a bodkin. Ideally you'll end up with your egg beads surrounded with fur.
Every fly will be a little different; but in the real world, each egg/flesh clump is a little different so that's a good thing.

A Cluster Egg fly in water ...
just too sexy for my box!
And the fish like it too.



Notes and thoughts:

This pattern shows two tools that are use specific in design. A turbo style dubbing twister and an adjustable dubbing table. Neither are absolutely required (see our pattern sheet for the Casual Dress), but both really help speed the construction of this fly.

A turbo-style dubbing twister can be had for about \$15, and is a very handy tool if you want to create custom brushes on the fly. (Pun intended.)

The table shown is made by Norvise and runs about \$50; a bit outside of my normal gadget budget. But I have good friends and I now own a new table. The Norvise table is somewhat adjustable, but make sure it will fit the tying height of your vise before dropping that amount of cash.

Given my normal process, I would have built a rigid table specifically for the height of my Traveler on a pedestal base. The material on top is from a fabric mouse pad; something Norm at Norvise says is the perfect combination of grip and non-stick for materials.

If you're going to build very many of these flies, you're going to want a turbo twister and a table.