

Fly Pattern Sheet - Gold Creek Special

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Hook: size 2 to 2/0, I always advocate that you can use any suitable hook for any given pattern.

Because Pat designed, and tied, this fly for fishing in salt water, I'm showing the Mustad 34007.

Thread: 210 Denier, hot pink

Weight: .030 Lead

Eyes: Bead Chain, large silver (vary size for different sink rates)

Tail: Bunny strip, hot pink w/ pink Krystal Flash over

Body: Bunny strip, purple (cross-cut or straight)

Head: Thread, hot pink

Variations: Black body/Fuchsia tail

Notes: I heard of this fly for the first time at one of the Alaska Fly Fishers Saturday tying clinics. Pat Welsh, the originator, lives in Valdez and is active in his local fly fishing organization. Pat's good friend, Jeff Jackman, was at the clinic and talking about Pat's new killer fly pattern. I Emailed Pat asking for the recipe and for any additional details on the fly. He forwarded me a sample fly, fishing instructions (always helpful), and a testimonial which I'm including at the end of the tying instructions. Since then this pattern has become a standard in my box for Silver Salmon.



Wrap lead over the rear 2/3 of the shank and cover the lead with your tying thread. Attach the bead chain eyes on top of the shank with cross and figure eight wraps.



Bring the thread to the rear and tie in a hot pink bunny strip for the tail. The tail should be approximately the length of the hook. Add in a few strands of hot pink Krystal Flash on top of the bunny strip tail.



Tie in the purple bunny at the rear, on the far side of the shank. The bunny strip is tied in so that the hair is down and the hide faces up. Bring the thread forward, just off the lead.



Wrap the bunny strip forward, stretching the hide slightly and with a very small overlap on the preceding wrap. Tie the strip off as soon as it comes off of the lead wraps. Secure with several very tight wraps and trim the excess.



Build up a thread head in front, behind, and between the eyes. Apply a whip finish and apply cement to the head/eye area.

Pat says he fishes this pattern on a heavy sink tip line and a 4' leader. Cast and let it sink to the fish's level (count down method) and retrieve with 6 to 12 inch strips.

Editor: Lance and I tie this pattern on a 3XL Streamer hook and/or a standard UTE Salmon hook for use in fresh water for Silvers. We use floating lines, long leaders, and vary the size of the bead chain to control the sink rate. We've found that we sometimes need the lighter eyes in slower slack water that Silvers will hold in. The eyes cause the fly to fish with a slight jiggling motion which seems to really get the attention of Silvers at times.

Excerpted from Pat Welsh's original EMail message:

“... I do have one important item to include regarding this particular fly pattern. Try tying this fly with black rabbit fur (cross cut fur laid back on the fly) and add a hot pink fuchsia tail. My reason for including this minor color modification to this fly follows:

On 1 September of 2001, I was in my float tube off of Allison Point. I had found a tide rip and several silver were coming up and jumping around creating quite an aerial show. I switched from the purple and pink Gold Creek Special to black and fuchsia version of the Gold Creek Special. Using an 8wt rod and a fast sinking tip, I made a cast parallel to the tide rip and let it sink until I was sure I was just a few feet from the bottom. On my third or fourth short strip, the fly stopped dead in the water and wouldn't budge. I set the hook hard and tried to lift the fish. No luck. The fish just took off and kept going until he had me into my backing. I managed to get him under control and brought him back towards the float tube. About this time, the fish decides he wants nothing to do with my efforts and makes another run, taking me into my backing. Again, I reel like crazy and this time bring him all the way back to the float tube. As the fish reached the float tube, I reached over with my trout net and stuck his head into the net. As I lifted the net, I could see I was in trouble because only half of the fish fit into the net. I leaned over and bonked him on the head with my Leatherman Tool. Only then was I able to lift him over the float tube and into the live well behind my seat on the float tube. I asked a local boater if he would witness my fish for the derby as I thought it looked rather large. The gentlemen in the boat offered to weight the fish so I hoisted it over to him. Well, he got out his hand scale and hooked the fish and said, “Oh about 26 pounds!” I told him that he might want to weigh the fish again and he did so. This time he recorded a weight of 21 pounds! Needless to say, I paddled back to shore as quick as I could and placed the big silver in a plastic bag full of water. Then I hurried over to the Valdez Silver Salmon Derby official weighing station and had the fish weighed. According the calibrated derby scale, my fish weighed 19.36 pounds. This placed me in second place in the derby. The first place fish weighed 19.40 lbs. My reward for second place in the Valdez Silver Salmon Derby came to \$3,500.00. I was flabbergasted.

Now you can see why it pays to go fly fishing in salt water. :-) ...Pat”