

Trigger Spot Pheasant Tail Nymph

I've been experimenting with hot spot nymphs for a while now – Listening to theories about visual appeal, contrast, UV reflectivity, curiosity, and even egg-sucking nymphs. Whatever the reason, fish do respond to hot spots on even very simple nymphs. This variation on a simple pheasant tail nymph moves the hot spot from the tail or the collar and puts it on the back where an emerging may fly's wing case would be - Thus the trigger spot.



Materials

- Hook: Your Favorite Scud Hook #16-18
- Bead: 3/32 Nickel Black
- Thread: Veevus 12/0 Brown
- Tail: Pheasant Tail Fibers
- Ribbing: Small Copper Wire
- Body: Pheasant Tail Fibers
- Thorax: Peacock Herl
- Wing Case: Pheasant Tail Fibers
- Hot Spot: UV Hot Pink Dubbing

Tying Steps

1. Place bead on hook and secure hook in vise. Start thread behind the bead and advance to hook bend.
2. Tie in several pheasant tail fibers for a tail about the length of the body.
3. Tie in a length of copper wire for ribbing.
4. Wrap the pheasant tail fibers forward to form a thin body to the half-way point of the hook shank. Tie off and trim excess.
5. Counter wrap the wire to the thorax. Tie off and trim excess.
6. Tie in several pheasant tail fibers by the tips on top of the thorax area.
7. Tie in 1 or 2 peacock herl and advance the thread to behind the bead.
8. Wrap peacock herl to the bead, secure with thread wraps, and trim excess.
9. Pull the wing case over the thorax, tie off with several thread wraps, and trim excess.
10. Dub a very small, tight ball of UV Hot Pink dubbing and push down on top of the fly collar. Make one or two thread wraps keeping all the dubbing right on top of the collar. Whip finish and trim the thread.

I fish this as a dropper under a small dry fly or as the dropper on my nymph rig. Few flies produce as consistently as a pheasant tail nymph and all its variations. This one is just a little more special and it often makes a big difference. Experiment with hot spot colors as well.

