



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

FLY OF THE MONTH

General Practitioner:

Hook:	Standard or Low Water Salmon Hook – 2X to 4X long Sizes 6 to 6/0.
Thread:	Red.
Tail:	Orange Bucktail or similar material
“Head”:	Small Golden Pheasant Breast feather tied flat.
Body:	Orange yarn or chenille.
Rib:	Oval Gold.
Hackle:	Orange palmered behind rib. Two feathers are needed.
Eyes:	Golden Pheasant Tippet in a “V” shape tied flat at middle of shank.
Back:	Golden Pheasant Breast feather tied flat front and rear.



Tying Procedure:

Step One:

After attaching the thread, wrap back to a position between the barb and point. Proportions can be varied. For a deeper-sinking version, a conehead or metal bead could be added first or wire for weighting wrapped around the shank. Traditionally the fly is tied without any added weight and the depth controlled through the fishing approach or line style.

Step Two:

Measure a clump of selected tail material. Traditionally Bucktail is called for, but Kid Goat, Fox hair, or even synthetic hair could be used. Bucktail is a buoyant material, so a good choice if you wish to fish this fly in shallower summer flows. Goat or other solid-fiber materials are a better choice if you want to penetrate the depths in heavy winter or roiling spring flows. I prefer *NOT* to stack the hair for a more natural tapered appearance. Make the tail as long as the hook shank and tie in above the barb. On top of the hair, tie in a single Golden Pheasant Breast feather extending about a third of the tail length to lay flat (see sidebar for preparation tip) to make the “head” of the fly..

Step Three:

Prepare the smaller hackle by exposing the tip. Hold the tip while then stroking the remaining fibers toward the base, bending them down and away from the stem in the process. Tie in all of the



following materials on the *underside* of the hook. First the hackle, right at the point where the fibers are bent down away from the tip. Then the ribbing and body material, having the excess material extend to the middle of the shank. Trim off the excess.

Step Four:

Advance the thread to the *MIDDLE* of the hook. Wrap the body material and secure and then wrap *THREE AND ONE HALF* turns of ribbing. This can be reduced to two and one-half turns on smaller sizes. The extra half wrap is to get the ribbing to be tied off on *TOP* of the body. When tied off *DON'T* trim off the excess. Leave it hanging off the eye end of the hook. Grab the hackle *GENTLY* and “double” it by bending the fibers on both sides of the stem back toward the “dull” side of the feather. All fibers should be laying back-to-back on one side of the stem, good side showing. Start wrapping it tightly right up behind the ribbing to the top of the hook. Tie it off and trim off the excess. Now take the rib and fold it back and then tie over the fold. This will provide the ribbing for the remainder of the body.



Step Five:

Open your scissor blades wide. Place them above the bare portion of the shank. Slide them down and back toward the bend from mid-shank, catching the hackle fibers on top of the body between the blades and ending up down near the body. Cut off the fibers between the blades. Repeat as needed to remove the hackle fibers from the top of the body. This removes excess material and provides a flat base for the back and eyes.



Step Six:

Prepare a Golden Pheasant Breast feather to tie in flat on top of the body. Length is generally to midway back on the “head” feather previously tied in above the tail. Also prepare the Golden Pheasant tippet “eyes”. Trim out the center of the feather, leaving a “V” shape with the remaining fibers. These should extend to the end of the hook shank above the point. Also remove the remaining fibers outside of the good fibers down to the base. Stripping these off is fine. Place a drop of cement (Dave’s Flexament preferred for its tough, flexible finish) on the tips of the “eyes” to hold them together during both handling and fishing



Step Seven:

Tie in the back flat with the “shiny” (also known as the “good”) side up, centered over the body. Tie in the “eyes” next. They should be spread out as they are on the feather stem and tied in right at the stem, yet without any stem showing. Trim the excess of both materials once secured.



Step Eight:

Attach additional body material on the bottom and the larger hackle in the same manner as the first hackle. You may need to trim the tip back to ensure the fiber length is equal to or longer than the fibers already in place. Allow the excess of the materials to extend *no further than two-eye lengths behind the eye*.



Advance the thread to *one* eye-length behind where the eye is formed.

Step Nine:

Wrap the body back to the thread and tie off. Next, starting at the top of the body where you left off, wrap the *same number of turns as previously made* to where the thread is, finishing the wraps on the bottom of the hook and tie off. Gently grab the hackle, double it as before, and wrap it to follow tightly behind the ribbing to the thread. Take one extra full turn if you can and then tie off. Trim the excess of all three materials as closely as possible. As in Step Five, trim the hackle from the top of the hook to remove excess material and provide a flat base for the back.

Step Ten:

Prepare one or two Golden Pheasant Breast feathers in the same manner as the first layer of the Back and tie in flat with the shiny/good side up over the top of the body. Finish building as small of a head as possible and secure the thread and then cement. You're done!



All of the patterns featured in Flyfishing & Tying Journal are available in detailed step-by-step Flash Slideshows on my website: **professorfeather.com**. I also encourage you to contact me with any questions or suggestions for other patterns you'd like to see tied and featured. Email me at **info@professorfeather.com**

Author Bio:

Kevin W. Erickson is the author of the new book published by Stackpole Books titled "Feather Craft – The Amazing Birds and Feathers Used in Classic Salmon Flies" Get a preview of what it has to offer at www.FeatherCraftBook.com. He worked in the flyfishing business for over 40 years as a full-time professional outfitting anglers, booking flyfishing trips worldwide and instructing fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying classes at all levels. He has traveled extensively and acted as host of angling groups to both fresh and saltwater destinations around the globe. Also a published fly tyer and author, his work includes contributions in Randy Stetzer's book "Flies: the Best 1000" and Randall Kaufmann's epic "Bonefishing." He currently works in the software industry in Beaverton, Oregon.

Editors Notes: Comments from the editor.

Fly of the Month:

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