



Spring Creek Flycraft and Guide Service

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Fly Tyers Corner October, 2012 Bill's Orange Treat

by Bill Carnazzo

October Caddis hatch time is upon us, fly anglers. Years ago I created a five-fly series for the life stages of the October Caddis ("Dicosmoecus"), which is the largest of the many species of caddis. Unlike the Rhyacophila which is the insect that was the inspiration for last month's pattern, the "Greenie," the October Caddis is a "cased" caddis as opposed to a free-living caddis. For more information about the life stages of this insect and its habits, I highly recommend reading the article named simply, "October Caddis" written by Phil Rowley, which you will find at:

<http://www.flycraftangling.com/index.asp?p=129> .

The Orange Treat is an October Caddis emerger pattern, tied in a soft-hackle style. I decided to add it to my quintuplet of October Caddis flies, and make it a sextuplet. The fly is tied in much the same style as last month's fly, the Greenie. For the Orange Treat, the abdomen is made with burnt orange colored dubbing that is overwrapped with a transparent layer of dark touch-dubbed material. It is important that the abdomen color show through the dark dubbing that is applied over it—but not so much that it predominates. Here's an apropos quote from last month's article: "The method I use to accomplish this result is to change the tying thread to black at the right step in the tying process and employ the "touch dubbing" technique that Gary LaFontaine (rest his soul) advocated in his books on tying caddis patterns. This technique creates translucency and an impression of life, unlike what would result if the fly's abdomen was just an ordinary opaque dubbed body. The "shine through" technique, incidentally, is not new; it has been used for wet fly patterns (traditional winged wets, wingless wets, flymphs, soft hackles, and nymphs) for a very long time."

I tie this fly on a Daiichi 1260 hook because I like its curved shank and large gape. I also add a "tail" of a few strands (and I do mean few) strands of UV pearl dubbing—not the flashabou type of strands. The tail is barely visible to the eye but does catch light in the water.

Materials

Hook:	Daiichi 1260 size 8	Ribbing:	Fine gold wire
Thread:	70 denier flat nylon, burnt orange, and Black "Sheer" 14/0	Legs:	None
Bead:	Black	Wingpads:	Ginger hen hackle
Tail:	2 or 3 wisps of UV pearl dubbing	Thorax:	Fine black ostrich herl
Body base:	Burnt orange dubbing	Hackle:	Furnace hen
Over-body:	Dark olive or black spiky dubbing	Weight:	5 wraps of lead free weight, behind bead
		Head:	Thread

Tying Instructions

1. Crimp the hook barb and mount the bead. Wrap 5 turns of weight wire behind the bead. Cover the hook shank and weight with a flat layer of the black thread; stop immediately above the hook point and leave the bobbin there.
2. From the package remove 3 or 4 wisps of UV pearl dubbing; roll them between your fingers and tie them in at that point.



- Cut a short piece of fine gold wire and tie it in at that same point. For now, just let the black thread bobbin hang there. Start the burnt orange thread behind the bead, and wrap it rearward in tight turns. Stop at the hook point, apply orange dubbing to the thread, and then wrap the dubbing noodle forward to the back of the bead, laying down a nice smooth layer as you work forward. Whip finish the burnt orange thread there.



- Using tacky dubbing wax, wax a 2 inch piece of the black thread; be sure to get the wax right up to the hook shank. Take a pinch of dark olive or black dubbing between your thumb and forefinger, and brush it along the length of the waxed thread, back and forth several times. This will result in some of the dubbing fibers sticking to the wax. Move the thread forward using relatively tightly spaced turns, ending just behind the bead. Although the burnt orange color doesn't show through much at this point, when it gets in the water there will be a significant difference.



- Rib the fly with the gold wire, making 5 turns, and tie the wire off at the front of the body.

- Tie in three barbules of fine black ostrich herl by their tips. It is good to snip off a bit of the tips before tying the barbules in, in order to obtain a stronger stem section. Wrap rearward over the herl tips to a point about 3 hook eye lengths behind the bead. The butts should now be pointing rearward.



- Prepare a pair of ginger hen hackles by stripping all of the hackle from the bottom of the feather, leaving just enough to make a wing pad that extends from the back of the bead to the bend of the hook. Tie one of these on each side of the hook so that they rest alongside the body. Trim the excess.

- Prepare a hen furnace hackle feather from the neck portion of the skin, as if you were preparing a soft hackle. See the July column for the method for accomplishing this. Tie the prepared feather in by its tip, concave side up, with the stem butt pointing forward. The feather should be tied in directly behind the bead.

- Grab the 3 herls with your hackle plier and twist them counter-clockwise until they form a thin, uniform "rope." Wrap the rope forward to the back of the bead, using about 4 turns, and tie it off there.

- Grab the stem of the furnace hackle feather with your hackle pliers and take two full wraps behind the bead, making sure that the convex side of the feather is up. Tie the feather off with a couple of tight turns behind the bead and clip the excess. Sweep the barbules rearward and whip finish behind the bead. Don't be tempted to wrap over the barbules because that will make them lie flat against the abdomen, which is not a desirable result because it inhibits their movement while drifting.



Now go crank one of these bugs and fish it. I live by that simple philosophy.

Enjoy, and see ya on the creek...!!!