



Spring Creek Flycraft and Guide Service

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Fly Tyers Corner November, 2012 Jan Nemeč's Fast Water Baetis Emerger

by **Bill Carnazzo**

I first saw this fly in the spring, 2012 issue of *Sierra Fisherman* magazine. Because I am a *baetis* aficionado, and because I tend to favor emergers over standard dry flies, it caught my interest immediately. Inevitably, I felt compelled to tweak it a bit to suit my style of canyon trout angling. That doesn't mean it's better than the original by any means; rather, it simply reflects my own perception (quirky as it may be) of what will or will not work in the gnarly places I find myself hunting down trout. Mr. Nemeč's pattern calls for a forward wing of foam for which I have substituted deer hair (because I like the Bob Quigley style); a shuck (or tail) of antron or z-lon yarn for which I have substituted "temple dog" fur; a marabou abdomen ribbed with pearl Flashabou, for which I have substituted a Flashabou body with an overbody of touch-dubbed natural dubbing; and a fully hackled front that I have trimmed to eliminate all of the barbules on the bottom of the fly. Still, it's Mr. Nemeč's design, and not mine. If you want to see the the original pattern and instructions, see the magazine mentioned above.

Trout seem to prefer mayfly emergers over fully-emerged adults, at least much of the time. According to entomologists, the main reason for this appears to be the ease with which trout can capture hapless mayfly emergers stuck in the surface film, as opposed to the more agile and mobile adults (at least once they have dried their wings and begin to fly off). Imagine yourself to be a hungry, predacious trout happily feeding in the midst of a *baetis* hatch. You are (mostly) done feasting on nymphs and you are looking upward into the mirrored subsurface of the surface film for potential victims. At the edge of your cone of vision you see a shimmering bug, wiggling mightily as it tries to free itself from its exoskeleton. Instinctively you "know" (it seems somehow weird to attribute knowledge to a pea-brained trout) that the insect is both semi-stuck in its shell and trapped in the surface film. So, you liesurely rise up in the water column, tip your nose upward a bit, casually sip the insect into your maw, and sink back down into your watchful position in the feeding lane. Next you notice another insect with gossamer upright wings, and you begin moving upward to intercept it only to watch it lift off the water and out of danger. Do you see my point here?

Note my use of the word "shimmering" in the last paragraph—if that doesn't register with you, do a Google search on something like "water surface film from beneath" and you'll gain an understanding of why it is important to impart a bit of translucence to your surface flies (and, if you follow Ralph Cutter's advice, to your subsurface flies). In case you missed it in the last two issues of the Leader, here's how I achieve that effect: "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."

Materials

Hook:	Daiichi 1260 size 16	Wingpads:	Butts of wing hair
Thread:	Light olive 8/0 Unithread	Thorax:	Same as body, but a bit fuller
Bead:	None	Hackle	Light dun dry fly hackle
Tail:	Small pinch of olive Temple Dog fur	Weight:	None
Body base:	Small pearl Flashabou	Wing:	Dun deer and a few strands of UV pearl dubbing
Over-body:	Light olive spiky dubbing	Head:	Thread
Ribbing:	None		
Legs:	None		

Tying Instructions

1. Start the thread at about mid-shank; stop immediately above the hook point and leave the bobbin there.
2. From the skin, remove a tiny pinch of temple dog fur and measure it to the length of the hook shank; trim the butt ends so that the bunch is slightly longer than the shank length, and tie the material in directly above the back of the hook barb making sure that all of the material stays on the top of the hook.
3. At the same point, tie in a strand of small pearl Flashabou and wrap it forward to the rear of the eye and then back to the tie-in point. Tie it off securely there and place a tiny drop of super glue on the thread wraps to secure the material in place.
4. Using tacky dubbing wax, wax a 2 inch piece of the thread; be sure to get the wax right up to the hook shank. Take a pinch of light olive dubbing between your thumb and forefinger, and brush it along the length of the waxed thread, back and forth several times, twisting the thread as you do this. This will result in some of the dubbing fibers sticking to the wax. Move the thread forward using evenly spaced turns, ending a short distance behind the hook eye. Try to space the wraps so that some of the pearl Flashabou body shows through.
5. Pull three or four strands (no more than that) of UV pearl dubbing from the package and tie them in on top of the shank just behind the eye, so that the long ends protrude forward out over the hook eye. Trim the forward ends to about half the length of the shank and securely tie down the butts.
6. Cut and stack a small clump of the dun deer hair, measure it to the length of the UV pearl strands, and tie it in on top of the shank with the tips protruding out over the hook eye. Trim the butts so that there remains a small set of stubs sticking up; this will represent the wing pad of the natural.
7. Prepare a dun neck hackle by isolating the tip of the feather; this will be the end tied in, so it's important that it is isolated. To accomplish this, moisten the feather slightly (use tap water, not saliva) and gently stroke all of the barbules, except for the very tip, toward the butt end of the feather. Tie the feather in by the isolated tip at the same point that the deer hair was tied in, and place a tiny drop of super glue over the thread wraps.
8. Once the glue is dry, wrap the hackle perpendicular to the shank, using 6 or 7 turns. Tie it off behind the hook eye, trim the excess, and whip finish.
9. Turn the fly over by rotating the vise, and carefully trim out the barbules that protrude downward, using the point of your scissors. We want this fly to sit squarely in the surface film, and not awkwardly on top of the film in its front area.



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

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