

# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Mike Mercer's Beaded Biot Epoxy Golden Stone

<http://www.theflyshop.com/fly10.htm> These photos were taken from the Fly Shop near Redding, Ca. They have a lot of useful information on their site. Dennis Remillard asked me to try to write up a recipe for this fly that was working for him in the Upper Sacramento in July 2006. Notes by Lucky Ketcham.



- Hook:** Tiemco 200R, 6, 8 or 10  
**Antennae:** goose biots, pale yellow.  
**Bead:** gold (Mercer uses Tungsten bead on size 6, gold on size 8 to 14 and copper on size 16 or 18)  
**Thread:** tan 8/0 on the size 10, 6/0 on the larger sizes.  
**Tail:** goose biots dyed pale yellow, touched with brown permanent marker.  
**Weight:** Two strips of lead on each side of the hook shaft.  
**Underbody:** thread or dental floss tape, flattened with pliers.  
**Body:** goose biot dyed pale yellow touched with brown permanent marker for mottled effect. You may have to use larger turkey biots on the larger patterns.  
**Wingcase:** dark turkey tail treated with a bubble of epoxy, or a slip of speckled Hungarian partridge treated and then coated with epoxy.  
**Legs:** partridge or grouse, tied in Oliver Edward's style by the tip under the wing case.  
**Thorax:** buggy nymph golden stone yellow dubbing

**T**he key to this fly is to make a nice flat underbody of two strips of lead wire and dental floss before wrapping them with goose biots. The soft partridge legs also give this pattern the movement that means "life."

Smash barb and slide on an appropriate sized bead. Keep the bead at the bend while tying on two goose biots for the antennae. Size to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in front of the eye, secure and whip finish. Trim off the thread. Slide the bead over the butts of the antennae. Cut two equal strips of lead about the diameter of the

hook shank and as long as the bead to the point. Cut the lead at an angle to taper the rear end. Reattach the thread behind the bead and wrap a tight thread base. Apply some head cement to the thread. Position the strips of lead on each side of the hook shank and wrap up to the bead and back. Flatten with pliers and add a coat of head cement. Attach 10 inches of white flat waxed nylon, like dental floss tape. Wrap a nice tapered underbody to the bead and back. Secure at the bend and trim off excess. Flatten the underbody with pliers. Add as small ball of yellow dubbing at the bend in preparation for the

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continued from previous page

tail. Select two matched yellow goose biots. Place each along the side of the body with the curved tips out. Size the tails to be one hook gap from the bend. Secure with wraps in front of the dubbing ball to flare the tails. Wrap the thread over the butts of biots on each side and trim at the mid line. Select a large yellow goose biot or larger turkey biot and attach by the tip at the bend. The ridge on the biot should be up. Apply a little head cement on the top of the body and wrap the biot forward. Make a wrap of thread with each wrap of the biot. Secure at the mid shank and trim off the excess. Attach the wing case of grey mottled turkey or Hungarian partridge. The wing cases should be previously coated with head cement or Dave's Flex-cement. The dull side should be up and pointed toward the bend. Select a straight soft partridge or pheasant breast feather for the legs. The barbs should be long enough to almost reach the point. Attach the feather by the tip, dull side up and lay to the back. Make a small noodle of buggy yellow/golden stone color dubbing for the

thorax. Wrap a sparse thorax, just enough to cover the underbody. Make sure to wrap up on to the wing case one wrap. Pull the thread diagonally across the ball of dubbing to flatten the top. Pull the partridge feather forward, secure with three tight wraps and trim. Add a small drop of head cement on top center of the thorax to help secure the legs and wing case. Pull the wing case forward and secure behind the bead. Trim off excess. Cover the thread wraps with a little dubbing or peacock herl. Whip finish behind the bead. Use a brown marker pen to mottle the top of the abdomen and the tail.

Make 6 to 12 flies and then mix up some clear 5-minute epoxy. Carefully apply a small drop of epoxy to the top of the wing case taking care that it does not run into the legs or dubbing. The epoxy will help add weight to this fly and the clear bubble will magnify the little grey speckles in the partridge wing case.

Dennis reports this was a hot fly the last week in July in the Redding area of the Western Sierras. 

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From Robert Miller:

This is a partial list of books available at the SD county library. Access by calling your branch, reserve a copy by the library website or going to your branch in person and reserving a copy.

### FICTION;

F GALLIGAN: THE NAIL KNOT  
F. KIEF: FIREHOLE RIVER MURDER  
F. MENDONSA: FISHING FOR CLUES  
JEFF HULL: PALE MORNING DONE

### NON FICTION

FLY FISHING FOOL  
CONSTRUCTING CANE RODS 688.79 GOU  
THE COMPLETE BOOK OF FLY FISHING 799.124 MCN  
THE BAMBOO ROD AND HOW TO BUILD IT 688.79  
THE ART OF THE TROUT FLY 688.7912 ART  
FISHING SMALL FLIES 799.124 ENG  
FISH ON 799.124 TAL  
THE SCIENCE OF FLY FISHING 799.124 ULA  
A FISHING LIFE IS HARD WORK 799.124 SCH  
A GUIDE TO FISH ORGANISMS THE TROUT 799.1757 BOR



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**Bighorn River, Montana.**

**Notes by Bob Pharoah, July 12, 2006.**

Notes on fishing the Bighorn River:

The Bighorn River is considered to be one of the finest trout streams not just in Montana but in the lower forty-eight states. The river consistently pulls out large fish. Brown trout average about 15 inches, while rainbow trout average around 16 inches. The river has outstanding hatches. And unlike many rivers in Montana, the Bighorn is a high quality fly fishing river for the entire year, offering anglers who don't mind the elements the opportunity to catch large fish in the middle of the winter.

Trout fishing on the Bighorn River is generally localized to the first 13 miles below the dam, to the Bighorn Access Site. In these upper thirteen miles, Afterbay Dam regulates river flows and irrigation has only a minimal impact on river flows. As a result, the Bighorn River almost always flows, steady, clear and cool, creating ideal fishing conditions.

Below the Bighorn Access Site, the current begins to slow down somewhat and becomes quite slow as it nears the Yellowstone River. Irrigation also begins to pull water out of the Bighorn. As a result, the temperature of the Bighorn River begins to warm up. Good trout fishing, particularly for brown trout, can be had between the Bighorn Access Site and the Two Leggings Access Site, although the numbers of trout per mile are less than found further upstream. Below Two Leggings all the way down to the Yellowstone River, large brown trout can still be found although their numbers are quite low. Generally, except during the fall and spring, the lower half of the Bighorn River is a warm water fishery for catfish, whitefish and bass.

Not surprisingly, the upper 13 miles of the Bighorn River have exceptionally heavy fly fishing pressure. The period between July and September sees the heaviest use. On a busy summer day, it is not uncommon to see dozens of rafts floating the river with many more anglers fly fishing from the rivers banks.

Once the busy season of summer passes, fly fishing pressure does reduce. However, even during the dead of winter, the river still sees fairly consistent use as the river as anglers come from all over to take advantage of the quality fishing the Bighorn River provides during the winter.

Any angler visiting the Bighorn River in winter (November - March) should come prepared. Being located on the western edge of the high plains can provide for wild shifts in weather. Some days will be in the sixties, while others will have sub-zero temperatures with blizzard conditions. So the motto for winter fly fishing in the Bighorn River is to come prepared for truly anything.

In general, the Bighorn River fishes well for both wade anglers and floaters, although wade anglers may have problems during higher water. Additionally, float-

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