
FLY OF THE MONTH

Kern River Emerger

Hook: TMC 5212 size 8, 10, 12,14,16,18
Thread: Black, 6/0 for larger sizes, 8/0 for smaller hooks.
Tail: Moose hair
Body: Peacock herl
Ribbing: Fine copper wire
Wing case: Razor foam (or any thin foam), 1mm for small patterns.
Thorax: Synthetic dubbing, or rabbit, opossum
Head: Black thread



The Kern Emerger was developed by Guy Jeans, owner of the Kern River Fly Shop. He has been guiding on the Kern for approximately 20 years and this is one of the more popular flies used in the area. Swinging or dead drifting this one will get you into fish! Originally developed for the Kern River this versatile nymph pattern has proven deadly on other rivers as well. More and more reports of how effective this fly is keep coming in from all parts of the country and world. He uses pink, red, and yellow for the wing case. But who says that you can't try some other colors.

1. De-barb and mount the hook in your vise. Attach the thread at the 2/3 shank on the hook and wrap it to the bend and back to mid shank.

2. Grab some moose hair and put it in a hair stacker, you will want an amount that is about the size of the hook eye, and the length will be from the eye to the bend in the shank. Tie the hair in from the mid shank to the bend.

3. Then tie in the fine copper wire (or your Zimm wire).

4. Then tie in the strands of peacock herl (depending on the hook size for the number of herls). This should be tapered and tied to the 2/3 position on the hook shank.

5. Then wrap the copper wire in the opposite direction that you tied in the peacock herl. This will help with keeping the peacock herl in place for more than one fish. If you do not have copper wire, try silver or gold tinsel.

6. Now you take your razor foam or any other thin foam and cut it the width of your body that you just tied and tie it in.

7. Then you will take and tie in some synthetic dubbing, do not be frugal, use a bunch as this needs to look really buggy. Then pull over the foam to finish the wing case and tie a whip finish.

8. To make the dubbing look buggy, use a dubbing brush or scissors to pull the dubbing out.

Guy also ties a variety of Bead head emergers and uses the above wing case colors plus green and orange. He also adds soft hackles on some behind the bead and on some a soft hackle and rubber legs under the wing case.

Now the question is can you be successful with this fly. It can be weighted or fished as an emerger near the surface. Notes and photos by Don Davis.

