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## Pheasant Tail Emerger

contributed by  
Ken Okorn



Hook:	#14 Dai Riki 125, or other curved hook
Thread:	8/0 orange
Shuck:	brown Antron
Abdomen:	3 or 4 pheasant tail fibers
Rib:	very fine copper wire
Thorax:	muskrat underfur
Wing Post:	orange poly yarn (other post materials OK)
Hackle:	grizzly, wrapped parachute style

I have seen a number of emerger patterns tied with pheasant tail fibers, but most have the wing set further forward. I got the idea for this pattern while watching Tom Baltz tie his par-nymph, which is designed to hold the fur body of the fly horizontally just beneath the surface film. I had done well with his fly, so I thought that it would be worthwhile to try this pheasant tail adaptation. I first tried it in a size 14 during the summer and fall of 2009, and it worked very well.

The recipe is close to my original, but reflects several changes that I made since that time. The original was tied with a tail of pheasant tail fibers like the pheasant tail nymph, but it was not very durable. After trying several other materials, I settled on the Antron shuck. The original post was white calf body hair, but the poly yarn tied in as described allows for a thinner body.

I have also been experimenting with various thread, hackle and thorax colors, and other hook sizes. A version with a size 16 hook, dun hackle and yellow thorax worked well when fishing sulfur hatches last spring. I have Hendrickson, March Brown and

Olive versions ready to try this year. This basic pattern has a lot of room for experimenting. Let me know if you find any great combinations.

- Start the thread behind the hook eye, wrap to the midpoint of the shank, and then forward two turns. This provides a solid base to tie in the post.
- Tie in a piece of poly yarn on top of and parallel to the hook shank. Use five or six tight thread wraps, overlapping the wraps to the extent possible.
- Pick up both ends of the yarn and wrap the tying thread around the base to form the post. Check to be sure the post won't twist around the shank.
- Tie in the grizzly hackle so that it will wrap with the convex (shiny) side down.
- Wrap the thread back to a point partially around the hook bend and tie in the Antron shuck.
- Tie in the pheasant tail fibers and copper wire at the point where the shuck was tied in and wrap thread forward to front of post.
- Wrap the pheasant tail fibers forward, taking one additional turn in front of the post. Tie off at this point.
- Counter wrap the copper wire rib several turns over the abdomen and tie off forward of the post.
- Wrap the hackle parachute style around the post and tie off in front of the post. Trim post to desired height.
- Dub a small amount of muskrat fur on to the tying thread and form the thorax forward of the post. Check underneath the fly to be sure that the tying thread is not exposed beneath the post.
- Finish the head behind the hook eye.