

The Fly Tyer's Corner Recipe by Jeff Hoelter

Frenchie

To kick off the new year, I've chosen an easy to tie fly called the Frenchie. As the name implies, it was developed by the French Competitive Fly fishing team. Despite its' simplicity, it has proven effective not just for trout, but also for many other species in both cold and warm water situations. This pattern is also useful for Tenkara if a faster sinking fly is called for.

While this example is tied on a jig hook with a slotted bead, it can also be tied on a standard nymph hook and bead. Experiment with other colors of thread and dubbing.

Materials

Hook: TMC 400 BLJ or similar size 12 to 16

Bead: Slotted bead, color, your choice

Weight: .015 lead free wire

Thread: UTC, Red, 70

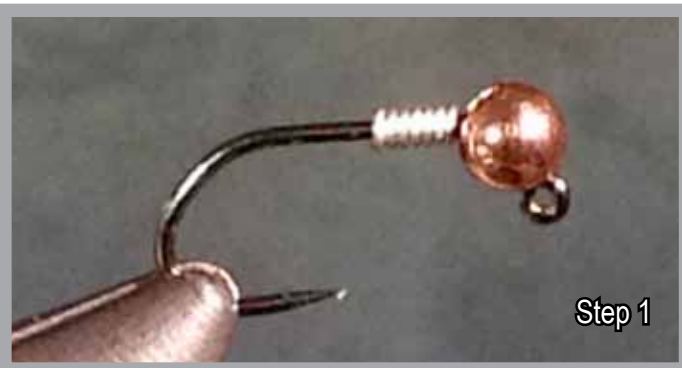
Tail: Coc de Leon fibers

Rib: Small gold wire

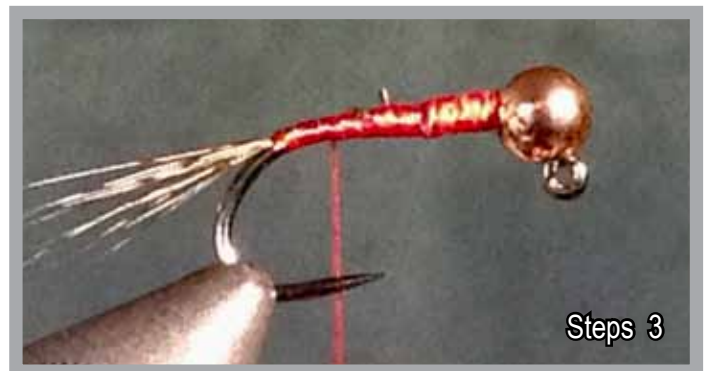
Body: Pheasant tail or

Abdomen: Ice Dubbing, UV shrimp, orange, red or whatever color you choose

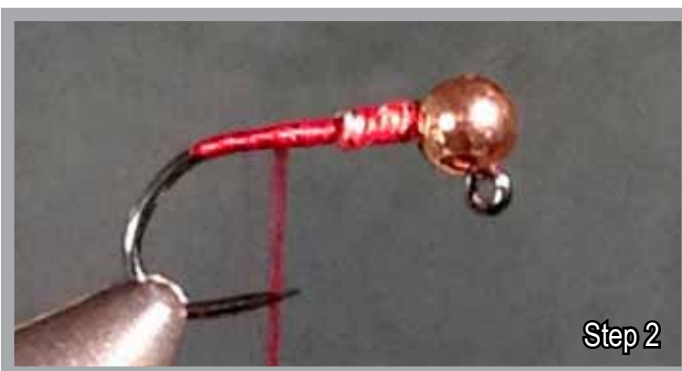
Step 1: Slide the slotted bead over the point of the hook and mount it in your vise. Lock the bead in place with a few wraps of lead or lead-free wire.



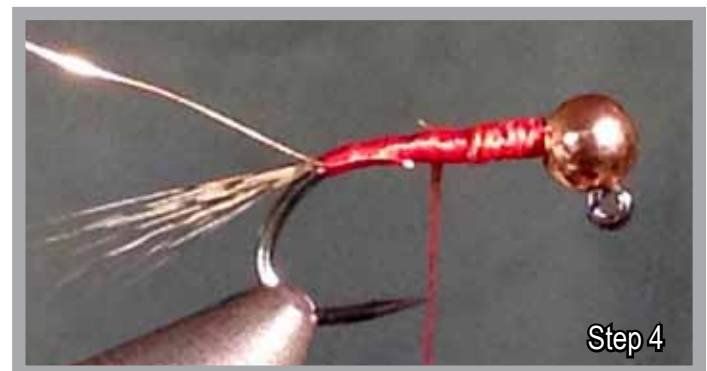
Step 3: Cut 8 or 10 fibers from a Coc de Leon feather and tie them in at the bend of the hook so it is about as long as the length of the hook shank. Wrap the base of the fiber down stopping just behind the lead wraps. This will help build up some bulk in the back half of the hook to make it easier to make a smooth body in later steps.



Steps 2: Start the thread in the middle of the hook and wrap over the wire to secure it. Wrap the thread to the back of the hook stopping at the bend.



Step 4: Tie a length of gold wire in just behind the lead wire and wrap it back to the bend of the hook.



Fly Tyer Cont.

Step 5: Clip a section of 8 to 10 fibers from a pheasant tail.



Steps 6: Tie the pheasant in by it's tips just behind the lead wire and wrap it back to the bend of the hook. Use additional thread wraps to build a smooth tapered body and let the thread hang just behind the bead.



Step 7: Wrap the pheasant forward with touching wraps to just behind the bead and tie it in. Try not to let the pheasant twist while you are wrapping it forward. It might be easier to use a hackle plier for this.



Steps 8: Counter-wrap the wire rib forward with 4 or 5 wraps in the opposite direction so it doesn't get lost in the pheasant.



Step 9: Use a small amount of Ice Dub for the thorax. This should end up with a ball of dubbing about the same size as the bead. Take a few extra wraps of thread behind the bead so it makes a little hot spot. Whip finish and it's ready to go fishing.



Fly Tying Tips by Mike Morphew

Sticking and Squeaky Bobbins

Although most bobbins of thread you purchase are nice and smooth in their use you will come across some that stick and sometimes squeak during use, both are annoying to say the least. The bobbin that sticks occasionally will break your thread usually at the most inopportune moment.

If this happens the remedy is easy, take a candle and rub it in each of the bobbin openings, this will lubricate it during use and make for smoother tying.

