

Ft. Worth Fly Fishers

December 2017 Fly of the Month

Christmas Streamer

'Tis the season!!! Wishing everyone a glorious Christmas and a very Happy New Years!

I decided I wanted to tie a pattern that reflected the season. I gave thoughts to tying a Christmas tree pattern (surely all of you have seen the spun deer hair Christmas Tree look a likes tied on a hook to be hung on the Christmas tree as a Fly Fishing ornament. Too cliché, me thinks. I've been into tying Carrie Stevens type Rangely Lakes streamers and thought a Christmas themed streamer might be just the ticket. I hope you'll agree and that this might add to getting you into the Holiday spirit.

A Christmas Streamer:

Pattern:



Hook: Mustad R79-94720 2XH/9XL in Size 2

Tip: Lagrtun Varnished French Tinsel, Oval, Small

Tail: Peacock Swords

Thread: Veevus White Red and Black 14/0

Underbody: Danville White flat waxed nylon in 210 Denier

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Body: DMC Satin Floss in white (S5200). These come in skeins about 11 yards long and includes 6 strands. I split one of the six and use it as the floss body. I split it down so that it lays super flat on the underbody.

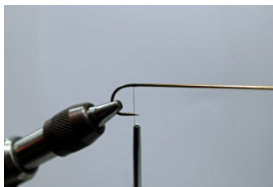
Ribbing: Two strands of Veevus FT3 Silver French Tinsel in the Medium size, one strand of UTC Holo Tinsel in medium red, between the two silver ribs

Wing: Whiting Rooster Saddle in Grizzly, Wapsi Streamer Rooster Neck in Red, Silver pheasant cheek, Jungle cock

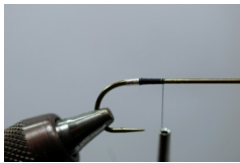
Throat: Peacock Swords

Step by Step:

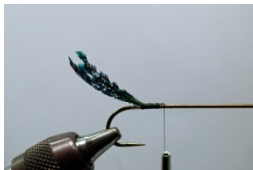
1). Start black thread at about the hook point and use a jamb hitch to start the thread:



2. Add the tip, starting the tinsel at the point above the end of the barb and use tight adjacent wraps to make a tip about 2/3's the length between the barb and the hook point. Tie off the tinsel (you may want to strip a small portion of the metal wrapper from the thread core to allow a smaller profile when tying down the tinsel).



3. Add a set of peacock swords as the tail. Tie in at the end of the tip.



4. Tie in the ribbing. Tie in one silver tinsel at the 3:00 Position (looking rearward). Tie in the Red Holo tinsel adjacent to the first rib (at about 4:00) and tie the second silver rib adjacent to the red holo tinsel (about 5:00). This will allow the rib to start under the hook and have a nice visual profile when looking at either side of the fly. Notice I inverted the fly to get all this accomplished.

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5. Using spiral wraps, move the black thread up to the front of the hook, leaving 1-2 eye diameters open at the front of the hook (this will become the head). Start the White 210 denier thread and build a nice flat underbody (make sure to regularly untwist the thread as you apply nice tight adjacent wraps. You may need to apply several layers to get rid of any bumps caused by tying in the ribbing material).



6. Using the 1/12 piece of DMC satin (this will need to be a piece about 5 feet long to make sure you have enough), wrap a smooth floss body, starting at the front, wrapping all the way to the tail tie in point and back to the front (so two complete layers) using flat adjacent wrap. This should be done to create a dead flat body. Any bumps in the underbody will telegraph thru to the floss, so the flat underbody is a key requirement. I whip finished the underbody thread and cut it away to allow me to use the rotating features of my vise to install the floss body. This is a really long hook and hand wrapping the body will get old.

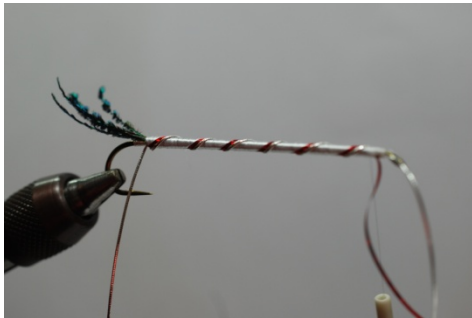


7. Add white 14/0 thread back to the front of the fly. Spiral wrap the first rib (it'll be the last one you tied in at the 6:00 position) up the body of the fly to about 2 eye distances from the front and tie off with white thread. I've done about 6 wraps up the body. You choose the number that looks pleasing to your eye.

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8. Spiral wrap the Red Holo tinsel up just behind the first rib. It should lay smoothly alongside the first rib. Tie off at the front.



9. Spiral wrap the second silver rib so it lays alongside the Red Holo tinsel. Tie off at the front. You should now have a nice "Candy Kane" looking rib.



10. Invert the hook and add a section of red bucktail (stacked to align the ends) under the hook to create a belly.

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11. Select a slightly smaller amount of white bucktail hair, stack to align the ends and tie in directly on top of the red belly hair. Hair should extend to about the back of the hook bend.



12. Clip off the tag ends of the bucktail (cut at an angle so the hair will build a ramp for a nicely sloped head later). Invert the fly again and add several strands of peacock herl that will represent lateral lines in the finished pattern. Length should be about to the ends of the peacock sword tail. Clip off the butt ends.



13. It's now time to construct the wings. They are built up in layers for each side by placing a small bead of glue on the rachis (stem) of the underneath feather and pressing the above feather into the glues so the rachis' are glued together. I use Aleene's Clear Gel Tacky Glue (Michaels, Walmart, Joann's) as the glue to build the wings. This is harder to describe than it is to do. See the attached picture sequence:

Select the feathers for each side and size the grizzly and read hackles to be about the length of the hook, extending to the back of the tails:

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Glue the red hackle on top of the grizzly by placing a small bead of glue on the rachis of the grizzly and pressing the rachis of the red hackle on top. Add the Silver Pheasant cheek and Jungle cock in a similar manner. Repeat for the other wing.



14. Add the two wings, carefully placing the two sides so that they match in front and form a sort of tent over the body of the fly. Tie down the wings while holding them in place to ensure they do not shift out of position.

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15. Clip off the stems (trying to preserve that tapered head you started with the bucktail belly. Invert the fly in the vise and add a set of peacock swords as a throat.



16. Use white thread to create a nicely shape (bullet shaped head).



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17. Rangeley Lakes (specifically Carrie Stevens flies) were finished with a black head having an orange band of color as a distinctive marking. That wasn't an appropriate color scheme for a Christmas Streamer, so I used a red accent band to highlight the white head. Coat with Sally Hansens to complete the fly.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of the Ft. Worth Fly Fishers!!!!

Barry Webster

Tying Director