



“PHEASANT TAIL EMERGER”

March 2009 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By Robert Rountree

MATERIALS

HOOK: Dry Fly, Sz 14-22.

THREAD: 8/0 UNI Camel.

TAIL: Pheasant Tail Fibers, 3-4 for smaller size, 5-7 for larger size.

RIBBING: Fine Copper Wire (Optional)

WING: Natural cream snowshoe rabbit hare's foot.

WING: Natural gray muskrat fur.

The Pheasant Tail mayfly nymph was originally developed by Tom Sawyer across the seas in England way before I ever held a fly rod, and fly fishers are forever indebted to his ingenuity. At least, I use mayfly nymphs a lot when I'm fishing for trout. Bet you do too. In between the rock hugging nymph, and free floating ephemeral adult mayfly lies another opportunity to deceive our pea-brained adversary with an emerger pattern. But when was the last time you tried an emerger pattern when the mayfly hatch was going on? Humbly presented, in honor of Mr Sawyer, is but one version of his classic, and just a little later in the mayfly's metamorphosis stage. Try fishing the emerger as a trailer in combination with your adult mayfly pattern during a hatch to cover more life cycle stages, and you just might be surprised at which pattern catches more fish. Resources included: *Tying Emergers* by Schollmeyer & Leeson, March 2008 and July/October 2007 edition *Fly Rod and Reel* magazine.

Tying Instructions

1. **(Photo 1)** Material: Rabbit Foot.
2. **(Photo 2)** Material: Muskrat Fur Patch.



3. **(Photo 3)** Tie in pheasant tail fibers, approximately hook-shank length, at standard tie in point at barb. If you like more flash, tie in traditional copper wire ribbing at this step (use fine copper wire). Wrap over pheasant tail fibers forward to the mid-point of the shank (pictured at right, #3). Double-back over tail fibers to the base of the tail. Wrap thread forward back to mid-point of body.



4. **(Photo 4)** Use your hackle pliers to grab the pheasant tail fibers, and gently twist them into a rope. Give them a backwards stroke to raise the individual barbules. Wrap the rope forward over the hook shank to approximately mid-point to form a segmented abdomen (pictured in Photo #4). If adding copper wire, wrap forward to mid-point of shank. Tie off, clip excess, and cover to make a smooth transition.



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5. **(Photo 5)** Tie in pheasant tail fibers, approximately hook-shank length, at standard tie in point at barb. If you like more flash, tie in traditional copper wire ribbing at this step (use fine copper wire). Wrap over pheasant tail fibers forward to the mid-point of the shank (pictured at right, #3). Double-back over tail fibers to the base of the tail. Wrap thread forward back to mid-point of body.



4. **(Photo 6)** Prepare a small amount of grey muskrat fur for dubbing. Clip off fur from patch, remove/discard guard hairs, and blend hair. Use direct dubbing technique (pictured below #6), and dub a small bulging head. Whip-finish the fly.

5. **(Photo 7)** Time to clip off the wing to size. Use your scissors to trim off the wing at an angle so it's approximately even with the base of the tail. Add a little glue/head cement to the head of the fly, and you're done. Finished fly size 16 emerger.

You're done!



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