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THE PERDIGON

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Tying the Perdigon Nymph

Let me begin by saying that after some research I have discovered that there are many varieties of this nymph. Everyone on the internet seems to have a different variation. So the Perdigon is more of a style of fly construction than one specific pattern.

The basic idea appears to have originated with Spanish competition fly fishers more than a dozen years ago. They invented a small nymph that would sink quickly and catch wary trout.

These are effective flies when fished as a dropper with a larger nymph or using euro-nymphing techniques. They are also very good fished as a dropper under a dry fly as they cast easily, sink quickly and don't weigh too much, allowing the dry fly to keep floating.

Although there are many variations, all Perdigons have common features. They all use a bead head, most often a tungsten bead. They are all small. Size 16 or 18 are most common. And they all feature very slim bodies coated with UV resin or in a few cases clear lacquer. Most incorporate a Coq de Leon tail (or substitute another barred feather) and a hot spot. If you look online for a pattern you will find that all Perdigons share these similarities.

Here is a version of the Perdigon to get you started. Feel free to experiment and create your own killer color combo!

Hook: Size 16 barbless jig hook.

Bead: A slotted 2.8mm or 2.4mm silver, gold, or black tungsten bead.

Tail: Coq de Leon or substitute any barred feather you like.

Thread: Hot orange 6/0

Olive 6/0

Purple 6/0

UV Resin to coat the body.

To tie a Perdigon:

Place the slotted bead on the hook round hole first.

Start the hot orange thread behind the bead and build a shoulder to keep the bead in place. Then wind back to the bend.

Secure the tail about equal to the body in length and bring the thread back to the bead forming a slender tapered base.

Tie off the thread with a whip finish.

Start the olive thread behind the bead and wrap toward the bend. Leave a tag of hot orange as a hot spot and return the olive thread toward the bead maintaining a slender body just enough to cover the orange under-body. Tie off behind the bead.

Wrap a collar of purple thread about as wide as the bead and create a taper up to the back of the bead and whip finish.

Use a black marker to darken the area above the purple thread and top of the bead. This is a wing case and is optional.

Coat the thread body with a thin layer of UV resin and cure with a UV light. You may also finish with lacquer or lacquer over the cured resin.

Other variations suggest using stripped quills or flash material for the body or omitting the hot tag and placing the hot spot behind the bead. Remember to keep the body slender.