

Fly of the Month
Rainbow Warrior
By
Dennis Westover



This pattern is the creation of a Utah fly fisher named Lance Egan. Lance is a long-time member of the U.S. Fly Fishing Team and competes in the National and World championships. The Rainbow Warrior is one of his and my personal favorites. It is effective as a dropper, fished under an indicator or fished European Nymph style. It's also super easy and quick to tie – advanced beginner and intermediate tiers will find this pattern easy and fun to tie. This fly, in sizes 16 and 18 is very effective on the Missouri.

Recipe

Hook - #14 TMC 2457 scud hook (I tie this pattern in sizes 14 – 18)

Bead – 2.3mm tungsten bead

Lead – 2-3 turns of .015 lead wire (jam the turns of lead wire into the bead and secure with tying thread)

Thread – UTC 70 denier red

Tail – 4-5 pheasant tail fibers, tied fairly short

Body – Large pearl mylar tinsel. Tie in behind the bead and tie down the full length of the body to the tail completely covering the tinsel with red thread. Bring the tinsel forward in overlapping wraps and tie off behind the bead. Don't trim the tinsel yet.

Thorax – Wapsi Rainbow scud dubbing (I prefer Wapsi over other brands because it dubs more easily) Now pull the pearl mylar strip towards the tail and bind down the mylar to about one quarter of the hook shank. Dub a buggy thorax behind the bead and then pull the mylar forward and tie off behind the bead to form the wing case. Put a drop of super glue over the junction of the mylar wing case and the red thread. I use LARGE mylar on sizes 14 and 16 and MED on size 18. The larger mylar is much more durable than the smaller sizes.