

Red Flashback Pheasant Tail

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



The Red Flashback Pheasant Tail was introduced to me by Fred Foisset at the Hook Fly Shop on one of my very early trips to Sunriver. Fred recommended it for imitating Callibaetis nymphs up on East Lake, where the color variation is a little darker than average. This fly is a standard Flashback Pheasant Tail nymph but is tied with a dyed red ringneck pheasant tail feather that produces very well in our local Central Oregon Lakes and rivers. Fast forward several years later, I fished this pattern on Hosmer Lake during mid-summer, casting it as tightly to the tule edges as I could. I had many strikes and fish to net that day and have not been without this pattern in my box ever since.

In lakes I will fish this pattern under a strike indicator, often moving the fly with short pulls to pop the indicator underwater and allow it to resurface. I also fish this pattern on an intermediate sink line stripped back in short choppy strips. For still waters I generally use brass beads, as the heavier tungsten beads sink too fast to be realistic. In rivers, I often use the Flashback Pheasant Tail as the top fly, both with brass or tungsten beads depending on flow rate and depth, and will attach a lightly weight nymph, such as a Serendipity as the dropper. Give this pattern a try this upcoming season.

Red Flashback Pheasant Tail Materials List:

Hook: 718, size 14-18

Bead: Gold or Copper Bead to match hook size (2.7mm or 7/64" for a size 14)

Thread: Ultra 140 Denier, olive

Tail: Red Pheasant Tail Fibers
Abdomen: Red Pheasant Tail Fibers
Thorax: Peacock Tail Barbs
Legs: Hungarian Partridge Barred Feather
Wing Case: Red Pheasant Tail Fibers
Flash: Mirage Tinsel Large, Opal

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/0DQHkmzfYtQ>. Experiment with this pattern on our local lakes and rivers. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Red Flashback Pheasant Tail pattern, please do not hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.