

## **TROUTS TINY MORSELS – PERDIGONS**

*By Todd A. Schotts*

Welcome back fellow Club Members to another year of Featured Fly Tyer at our Activity Meetings. I will kick off this awesome program that we do in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. If you are interested in being one of the Featured Tyers, please contact myself, or someone from the board and we will get you set up.

For tonight's fly pattern we are going to tackle what has been a craze in our world of Fly Tying and Fly Fishing over the years. The fly I am talking about is the famed "Perdigon". This fly pattern was actually introduced over 15 years ago by the Spanish in competition fly fishing. The word "Perdigon" means "Shotgun Pellet", as they are designed to sink quickly making them a favorite with fly fishers and competition fishing.

For the materials for this fly pattern, you need to select the right materials to make this fly live up to its name "Shotgun Pellet". To start with the hooks, I would say that 90 percent of the Perdigos are tied on are on 60-degree jig hooks ranging in sizes 10 up to 20., The other 10% is on heavy nymph hooks. I like using the jig hooks that are barbless and one thing about the jig hooks with the bead on them, they ride inverted in the water column; with the hook riding upward. This really helps not getting snagged up on the debris in the watershed. Plus, when you set the hook on the fish with the jig hooks, it penetrates the upper lip which is the hardest part of the trout's mouth. When tying these with the bigger hooks you look for the fastest and deepest runs. The head of the fly, is a bead in different colors and styles. For the Jig Hooks, you will have to use slotted beads, so they will go over the 60-degree angle at the eye of the hook. For the body and tail of the fly you do not want to use anything bulky, or anything that absorbs water as it will slow this fly down as it goes down to the bottom. The tailing material is done with Coq De Lon Tailing Fibers. These fibers are narrow and sleek, compared to pheasant and turkey fibers. You can still use the pheasant and turkey materials, but it will slow down and hinder the fly's path to the bottom. For the body, you can use various threads like 8/0 or 10/0 fly tying threads or sewing "Sulky" threads. You can find the Sulky threads at JoAnns or Micheals. The other materials are natural stripped peacock quills, flash, tinsel, or synthetic quill material. Some Perdigos add ribbing to the fly, with either vinyl rib, heavy thread, or Ultra Wire. Another feature is adding a hot spot up behind the bead. This is done with bright orange, red, yellow, or chartreuse threads. The next step which is optional, is adding a wing case to this fly. That is achieved by using black nail polish or black UV glue. Once you have added this, the last step is to finish up this little morsel. You will add a Thin or Flexible UV Glue to the whole fly, except the tail. This will help the fly in making its fast descent to the bottom of the water column.

To fish this fly, is simple but can be confusing also. The recommended use is using an "Euro Nymphing" fly rod. They also may be called "High Sticking" rods. These rods are 3 or 4 weights and 10 or 11 feet long. One thing about using this style of fly rod, the tip of the rod is more sensitive than a normal fly rod. Which if you are using a regular fly rod (which you can). You will miss a lot of hits from the fish. Where if you were using a Euro rod you wouldn't miss them. I didn't believe this until I started using a Euro Fly Rod and it has been believing in it. For the leader there are different sizes for different styles of Euro Nymphing. The leader I use is about a 20-foot leader with a 20-inch tippet. I use a tippet ring when I attach the tippet to the leader, and the leader has what they call a sighter (bright line to act like an indicator/bobber). All it is, is a bright colored line tied in. If interested more in the leaders check out George Daniels books and videos.

For the 2 patterns we will cover at the meeting the first one is "Rock Worm Perdigon" and the second one will be the "Gasolina Perdigon." One thing with the Gasolina Perdigon you can change up the flash used for the body material for various hatches and appearances. I will have the materials, but will have to bring the thread that is recommended, as that is what your body color will be, especially with the Rock Worm; if you want to bring the other materials no problems. Hope to see you tying at the MFFC Activity meeting with these tiny Trout morsels. Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Todd Schotts



### **Rock Worm Perdigon**

**Hook:** Sizes 12 to 18 Jig Hooks 60-degree

**Bead:** Black Nickel slotted tungsten sizes to math hook size you are using

**Thread:** Fluorescent Green 8/0 or 70 denier

**Body:** your tying thread

**Rib:** Clear Vinyl Rib "D"



### **Gasolina Perdigon**

**Hook:** Sizes 14 to 20 Jig Hooks 60-degree

**Bead:** Copper (gold & silver is good to) Tungsten slotted

**Thread:** dark tan, brown, or black 8/0 or 70 denier. You can go smaller diameter thread also.

**Tail:** Coq De Leon Tail Fibers

**Body:** 1 strand of tan, brown, or olive Krystal Flash or Opal Tinsel

**Hotspot:** Thread 8/0 or 70 denier Fl. Orange

**Wingcase:** Black UV Resin or Black Nail Polish