

Copper John

By Matt Clements

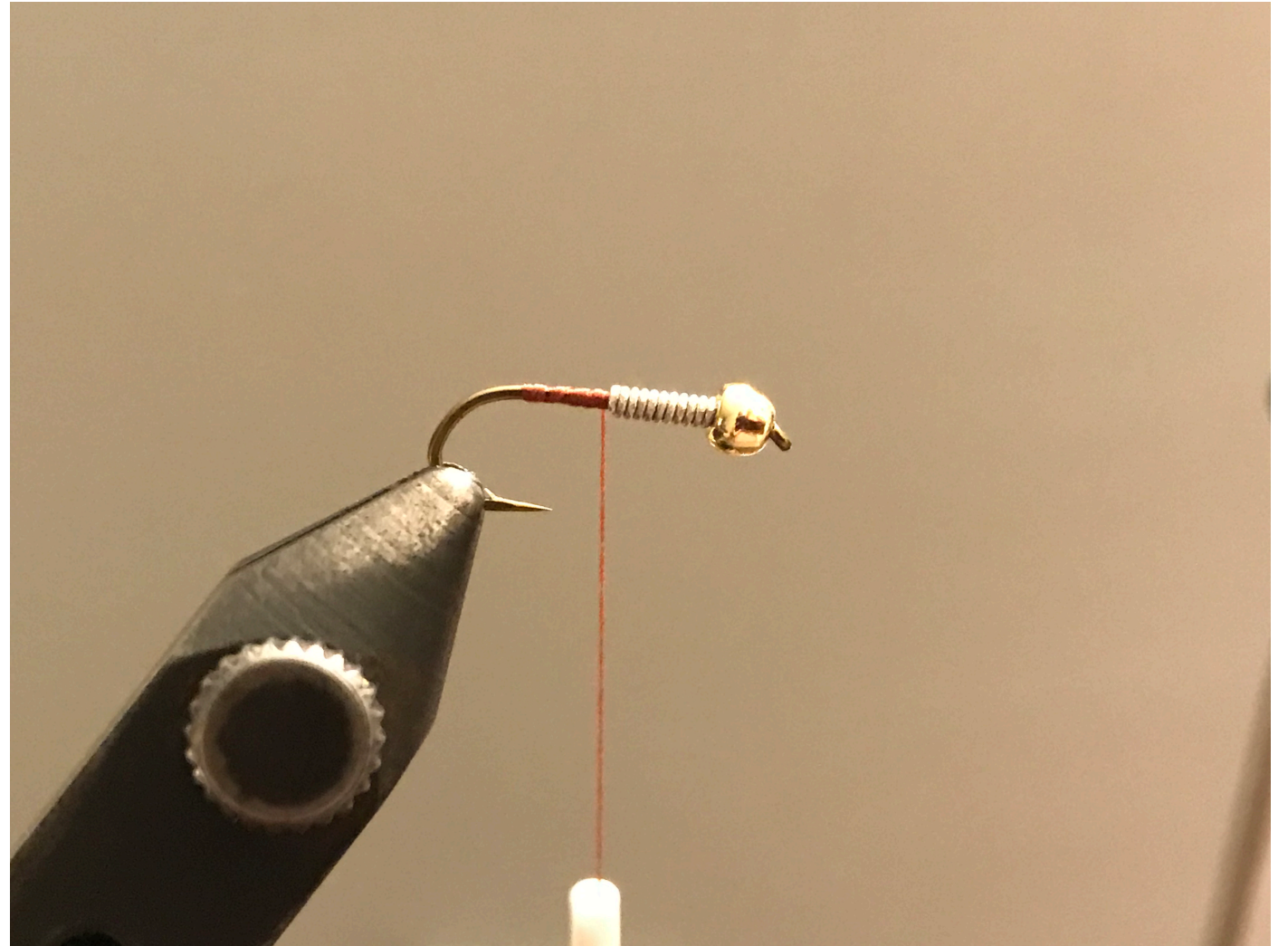
This is the Copper John, as tied at our club meeting.

Drop one in a hole below a riffle and learn why "the tug is the drug."



We start with a Daichi 1710 Size 14 hook and a 7/64 gold tungsten bead.

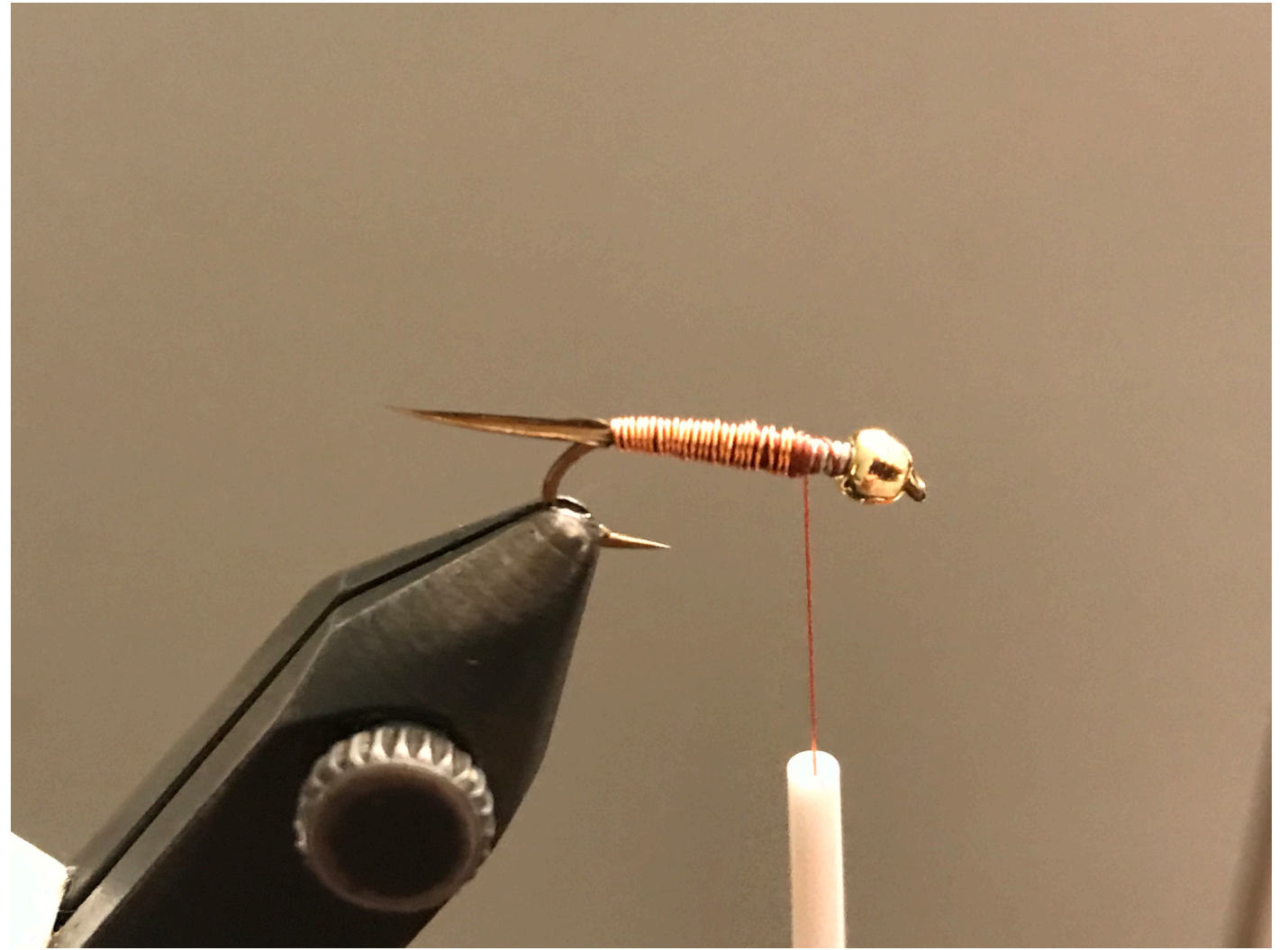
Add a dozen wraps of 0.020 lead free wire, start your thread behind the wire.



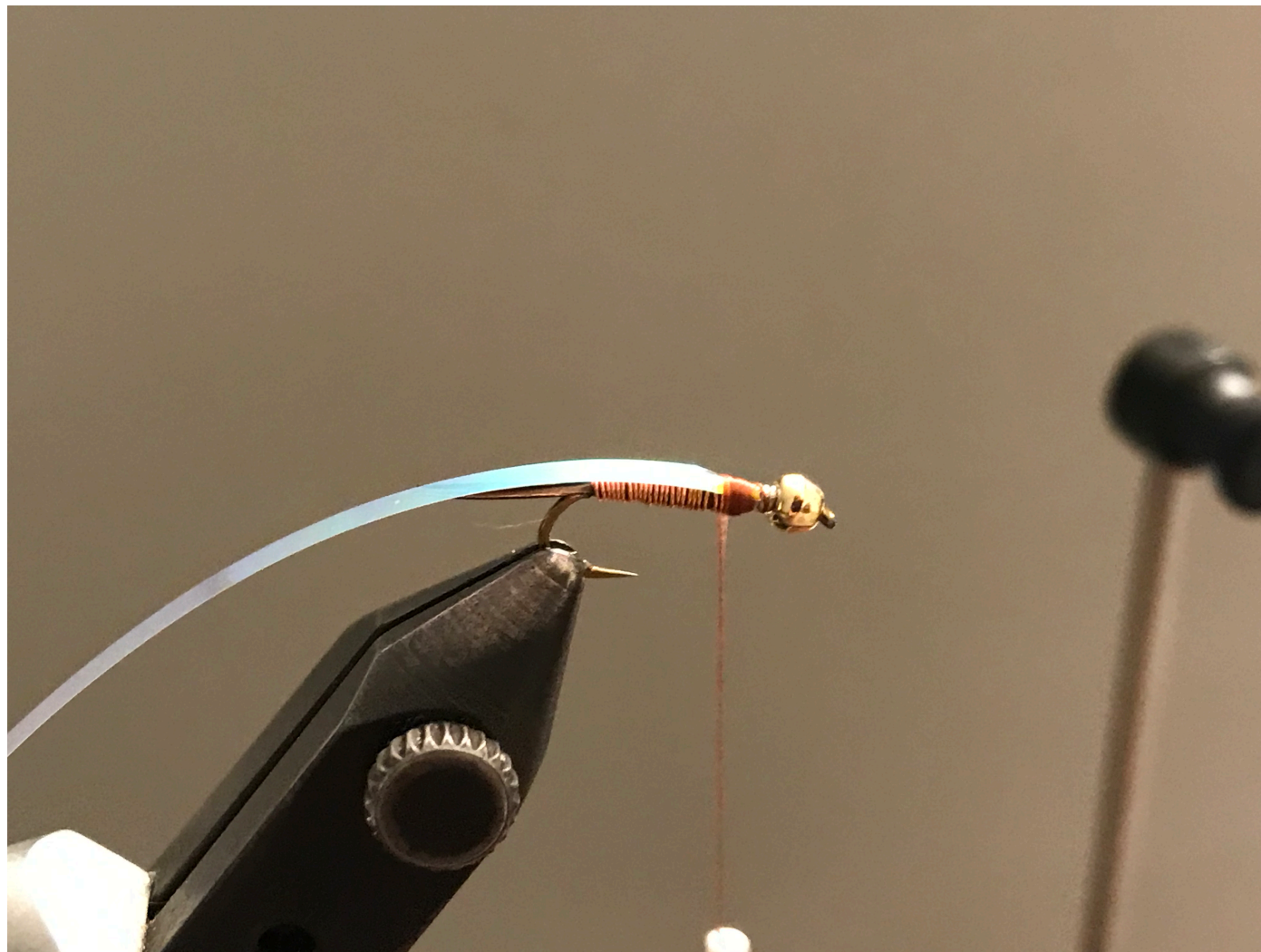
Tie in a pair of brown biots for the tail, about 2/3 the hook shank. Build a tapered thread ramp to the lead wire.



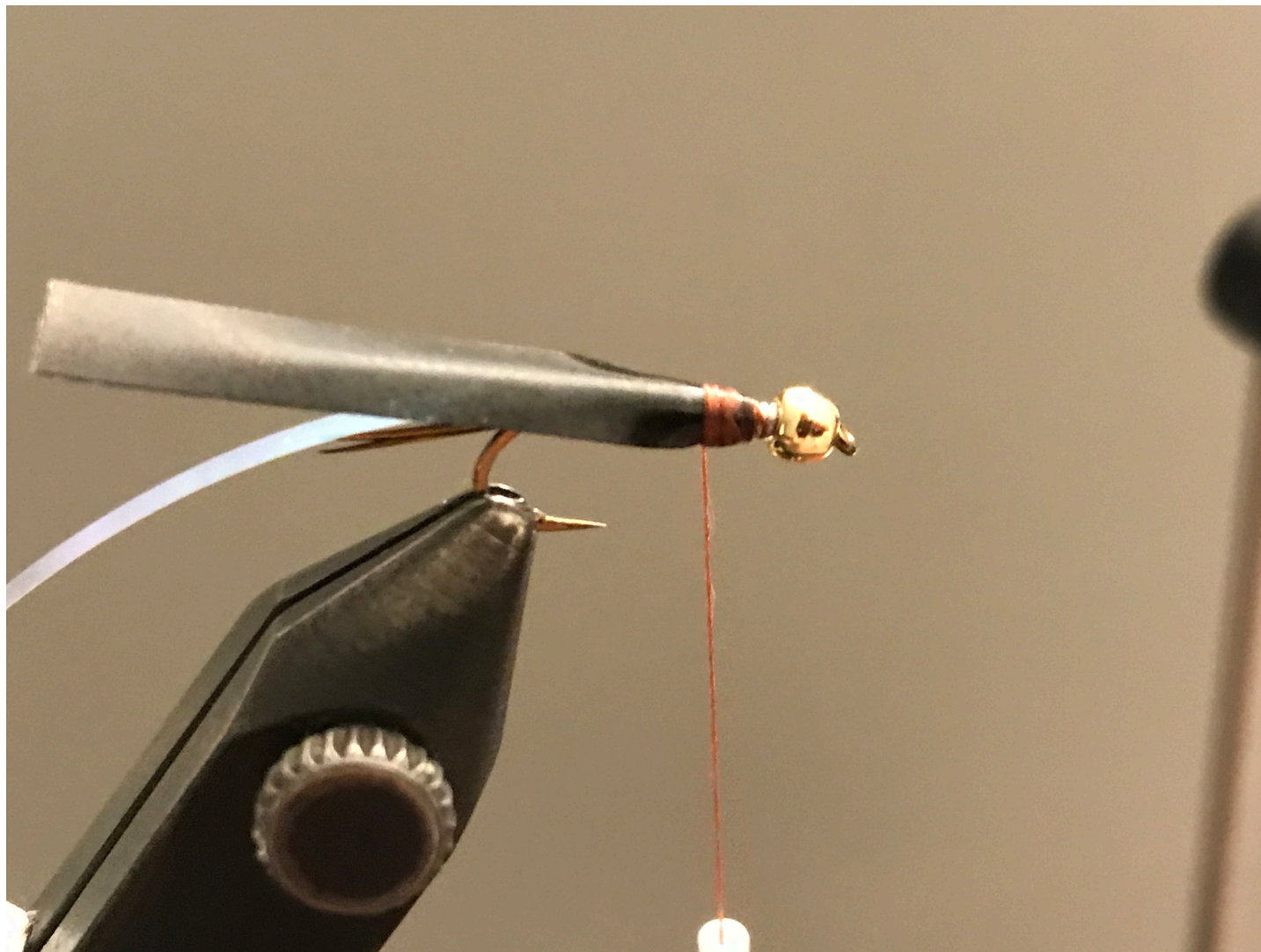
Tie in brassie size copper wire, wrap in touching turns to about a bead diameter behind the bead.



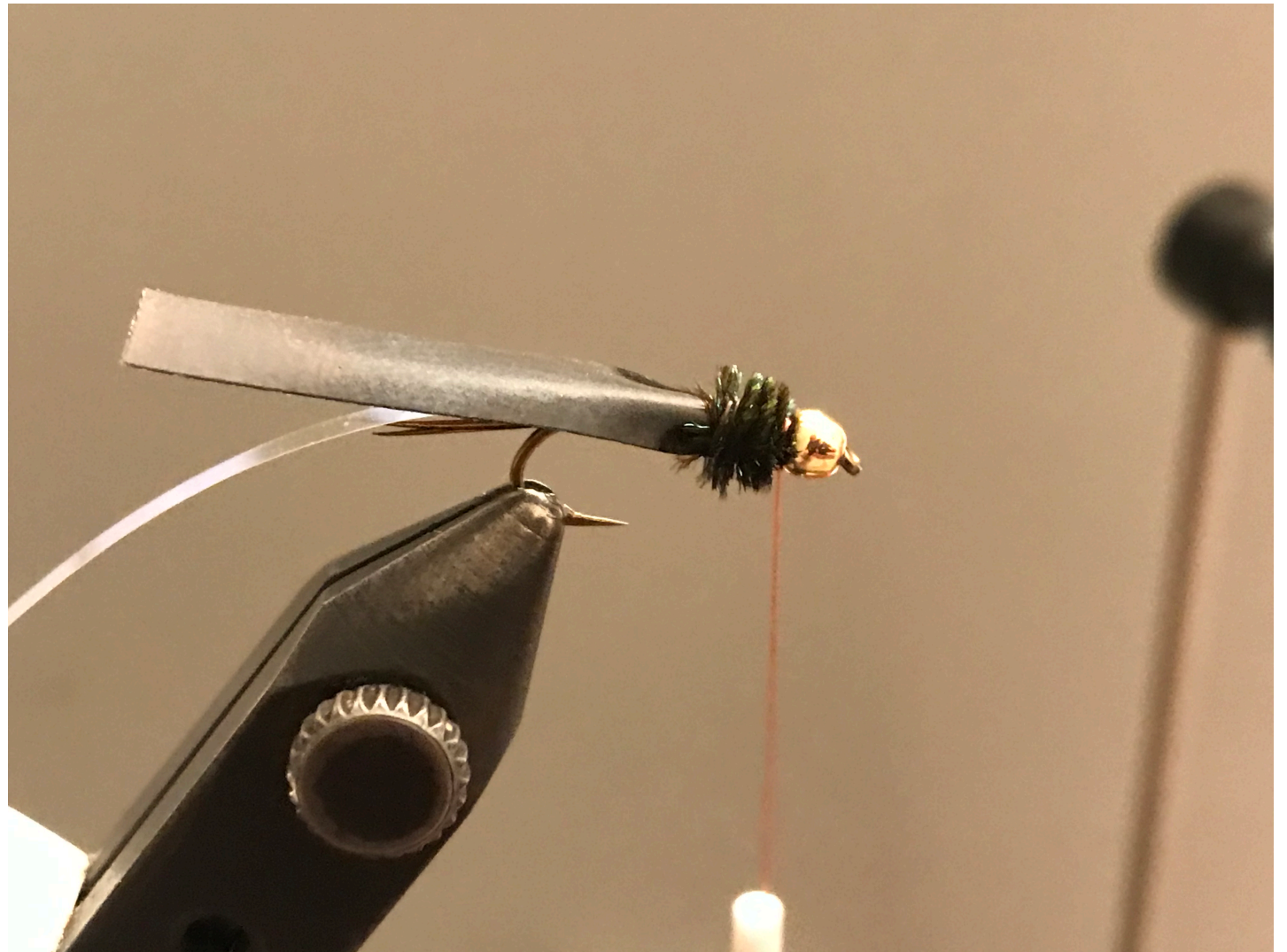
Tie in a piece of pearl saltwater size flashabou one bead diameter behind the bead.



Tie in a strip of black ThinSkin, Shiny side down. The strip should be about 1.75-2 times as wide as the flashabou.



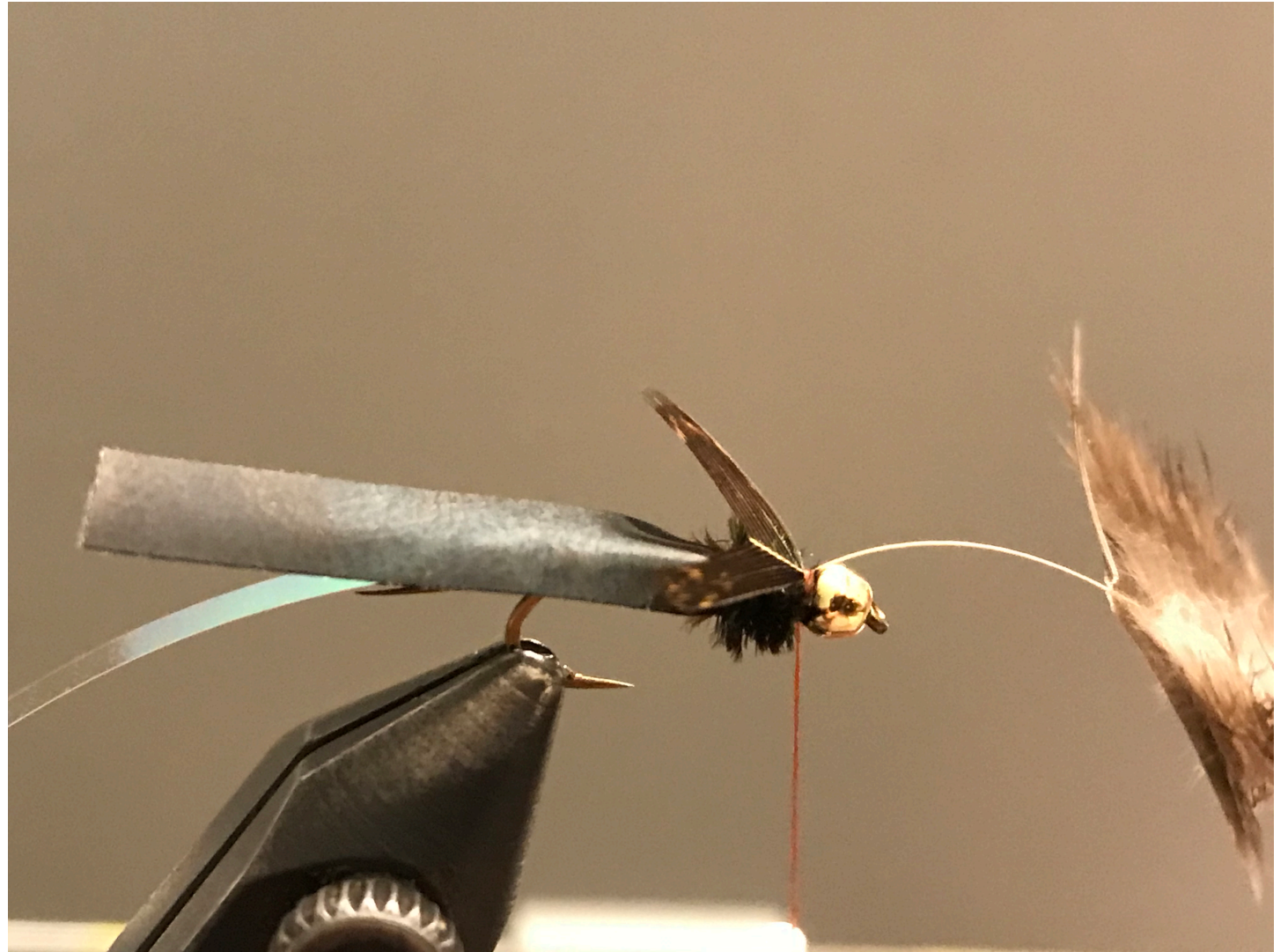
Tie in a peacock herl, and palmer it up to immediately behind the bead.
Tie off and trim off excess peacock.



Trim a soft hackle of some sort. This is from an india hen, but any speckled tip soft hackle should work. Peel back barbules on each side, and trim out the tip.



The hen gets tied in by the stem, at the back of the bead, over the top of the fly. pull the feather forward until the notch is at least parallel to the back of the peacock herl.



Pull the ThinSkin Forward and tie down loosely. Pull stem forward on hen to adjust leg length shorter if necessary. Tie down tight and trim off feather.



Pull the flashabou forward and tie down at the back of the bead.



Traditionally a dollop of 5 minute epoxy is placed on top of the flashabou and ThinSkin, and about 1/2 way up the bead. I prefer to use UV cure resin. less wait, less waste, less hassle, just as effective, easier cleanup, less irritation from exposure dermatitis.

