

CDC Golden Stone Fly

By Joe Gahlinger

A Charlie Craven creation, it is an offshoot of the CDC Pheasant Tail. Intended as a trout fly, especially in the Western United States where Golden Stone Flies are common, I accidentally discovered this to be a remarkably effective panfish fly (particularly Bluegill). In fact, I have rarely caught trout on this fly in our regional waters. My favorite size is a #12, 1X long Nymph hook with tan, amber or dun dubbing and grizzly hen hackle. I tie #10s and #14s for a change of pace and sometimes use two different sizes in a double fly configuration if I am fishing deep (over 4') to get the flies down quicker. In the Spring when Bluegill are on nest it is not uncommon to catch two fish at the same time with the double fly setup – a real thrill on a 3 or 4 weight rod. Fishing it under a red or pink squirmy wormy San Juan pattern also works well. I almost always fish it under an indicator. After letting the fly(ies) settle to full depth I start a slow retrieve using very short jigging strips (6 inches or less), letting the fly settle after each strip. This takes advantage of the underlying CDC hackle to create a pulsing or puffing motion. The CDC hackle holds air bulbs and tends to keep the Hen hackle puffed out. This is a fairly durable fly and I tend to lose them on a hang-ups well before they wear out.



Materials

Hook: 1X Long, 2X Heavy, Nymph, Size 12 (Can use sizes 10 thru 14)

Bead: 1/8" Gold Tungsten WAPSI Bomb (or any brand counter sunk bead)

Thread: 70 Denier Tan ULTRA

Lead Wire: .015 (.010 for smaller hook or less weight)

Tail: 6 – 8 Pheasant Tail fibers

Wire: 28-gauge Sliver Jewelry Wire (or small or brassie size)

Casing: Extra Wide Saltwater Pearl Flashabou

Dubbing: Amber Scud Dubbing (or any reasonably coarse dubbing)

Hackle : CDC Super Select, Light Dun (or color of choice to match dubbing)

Whiting Brahma Hen, Grizzly (or Partridge; color of choice to match dubbing and CDC)

De-barb hook, slide bead onto hook (small hole side first) and make 8 – 14 tight wraps of lead wire and push into bead snugging bead up to the eye. This is a size 12 1X long hook with 14 wraps. As you can see the lead wrapping extends almost back to the the hook point.



Wrap at least one layer of thread from the bead back to the beginning of the hook bend then tie in 6-8 strands of Pheasant Tail with tips extending about $\frac{1}{2}$ the shank length past the end. Err on the side of shorter rather than longer.

Wrap thread from bead to the bend completely covering the pheasant tail and lead wire. Stop the thread just in front of the hook point.

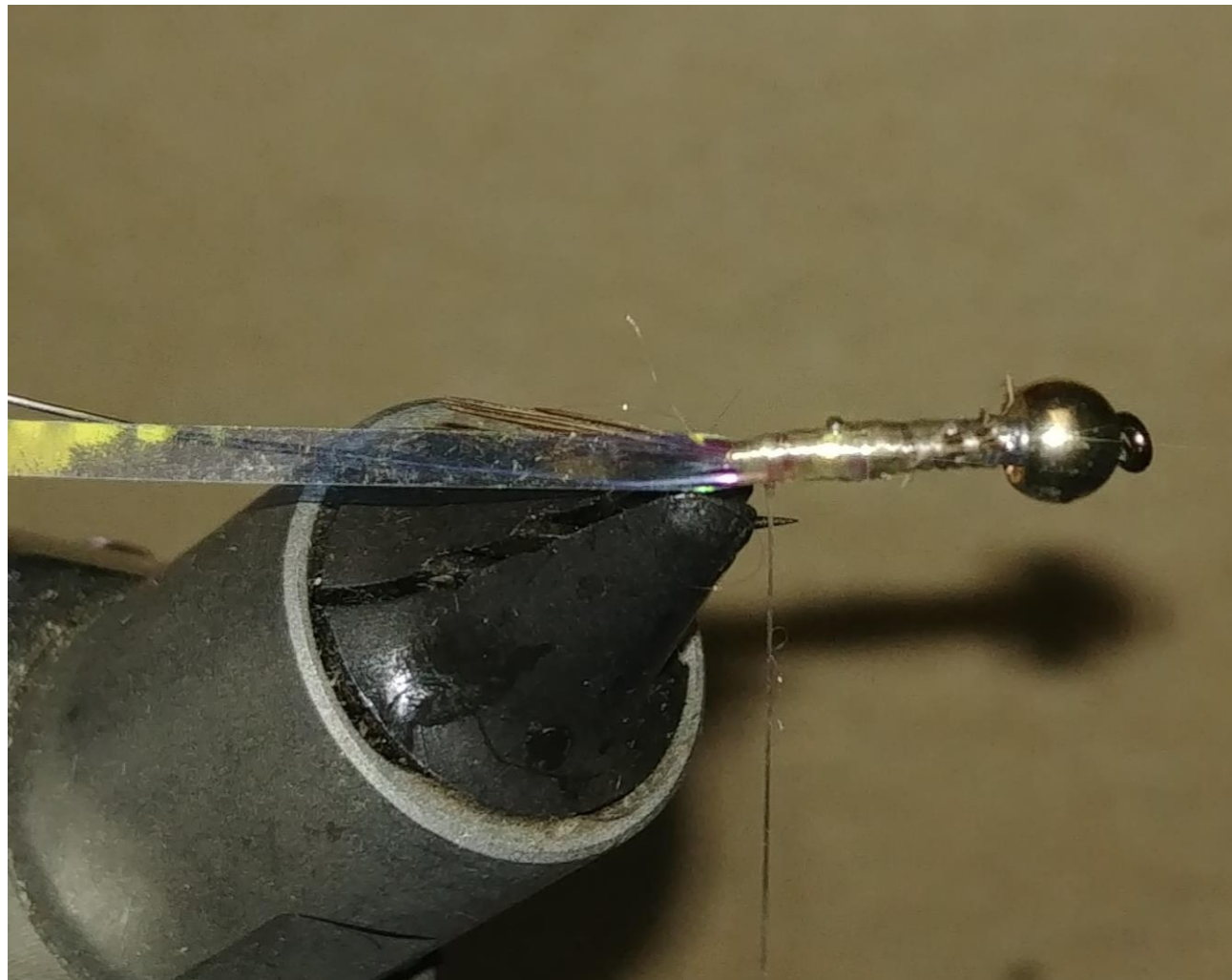


Tie in about a 3" piece of the silver wire along the side of the hook and completely cover it back to the start of the tail.

Bring thread back to just in front of the hook point.



Tie in a little over and inch of pearl Flashabou on top of the hook, completely covering it with thread all the way back to the base of the pheasant tail. Stop the thread there.



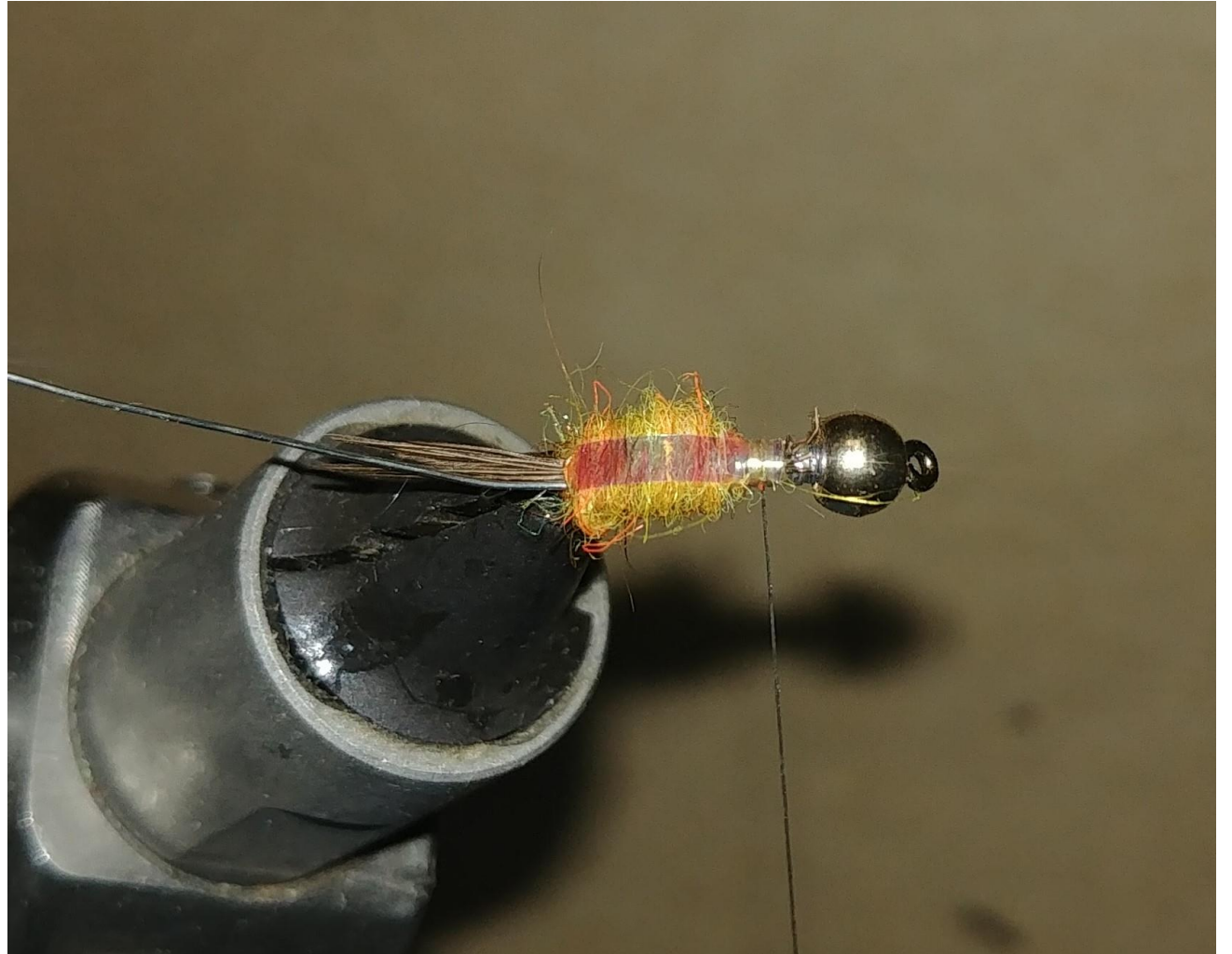
Tie in a moderate amount of dubbing from the base of the tail forward leaving a little less than a bead diameter's width gap from the dubbing to the bead.

Stop thread there.



Fold the Flashabou over top of the dubbing, locking it in with a number of thread wraps. Tip: tying down the Flashabou tag end, then folding it back on itself and tying it down again will solidly lock the Flashabou in place.

Leave the thread just in front of the dubbing.



Counter wrap (i.e., wrap in the opposite direction of the your thread wraps) the silver wire forward evenly spacing the wraps to create three or four segments in the dubbing. Securely tie the wire off at the front end of the dubbing.

Bring thread back to the front of the dubbing.



Tie in the CDC hackle, tip first, locking it down and stopping your thread at the front of the dubbing.



The fun continues as you gently make two or possibly three (depends on the hook size and size of your feather) counter wraps of the CDC hackle. Brush the fibers back away from the bead making each successive wrap in front of the previous wrap (i.e., towards the bead.) Then make a thread wrap through the feather and across the wrapped feather spine so that your thread winds up in front of the last wrap. Hold the fibers down along the hook shank and make a couple more thread wraps over the very front edge of the hackle.



Select a small Hen feather and brush back the fibers leaving a small arrowhead-shape of fibers at the tip. As with the CDC hackle, lay the tip end on top of the hook with the exposed spine behind the arrowhead centered on the shank between the bead and the CDC hackle and lock down with a few thread wraps. Make two or three counter wraps with the hackle brushing the fibers back with each wrap. Lock down the hackle with a few thread wraps and cut off the remaining feather.



Now gently brush and hold both sets of hackle fibers back away from the bead and make a few fairly tight thread wraps on the front edge of the hackle. I find that using a narrow diameter soda straw to push the fibers back allows you to more easily control the fibers. Simply push the straw over the bead to the front of the hackle wrap, then wrap the thread off the end of the straw. Make a few more thread wraps to smooth everything out behind the bead.



Wrap in just enough dubbing to cover the threads, whip finish immediately behind the bead, snip off the thread and head to your favorite bluegill hole!!

For a very good instructional video on this fly click on the following link:

[In the Riffle Video](#)

For a step-by-step tutorial from Charlie Craven himself click [here](#).

