

Otter's Soft Milking Egg CLUSTER PATTERN

An easy tie for a fly that steelhead love to eat. *By Walt Mueller*

Whether hungry Great Lakes steelies follow salmon, browns and lakers up for easy eggs in the fall or chomp eggs from other steelhead in the spring, real spawn, imitation spawn, beads and egg flies all have a strong track record of catching them.

This super easy-to-tie Three Egg Cluster Fly employs Otter's Three Egg Cluster Eggs, which

are unscented, realistic, soft and available in 16 different colors and seven sizes. Addition of Otter's Milking Veil makes the cluster look like it's milking and provides a great means of holding a bit of extra scent. This fly has been proven deadily by both fly purists and center-pinner and other float anglers. (For a look at all of Otter's wares, check out softmilkingegg.com).



Soft Milking Egg Flies can be tied in many shapes and colors.

Step 1 Trim a cluster from the string of Otter's Three-Egg Cluster eggs.

Step 2 After winding a thread base on the No. 8 scud hook's shank, take a 1 1/2-inch piece of Otter's Milking Veil, parallel to hook shank, tie in middle at rear of hook, then pull front half of veil to the rear.

Step 3 Now cover the thread base with Loctite Super Glue (glue in the eye will be removed by the egg passing over the eye).

Step 4 Push the bottom 2 eggs in the cluster over the eye onto the hook shank.

Step 5 Continue pushing the eggs until the cluster butts up against the veil.

Step 6 Bring the thread underneath the cluster and make two X wraps at the eye.

Step 7 Take the two halves of veil and make an X behind the cluster so the veil will rise above the two lower eggs on the shank; leave a small bit of veil trailing off the rear of the hook.

Step 8 Now pull the veil on top of the two lower eggs toward the eye.

Step 9 Make another X over the eye, then lightly tie off with two X wraps of thread; then pull on the veil to the right to compress the eggs; make two tight wraps to lock in.

Step 10 Keep the veil separate to each side of the cluster; bring to the rear of the cluster.

Step 11 Pull veil to the rear on each side of the cluster and marry with the small bit of veil left behind to the rear of the cluster.

Finished! The finished Otter's "Soft Milking Egg" cluster in Kiwi/Silver Flash color.

Walt Mueller, aka "The Otter," is an avid fly tier and fisherman of over 50 years who resides in the foothills of the Rockies, close to the best fishing in Colorado. His Otter Eggs have gained a world-wide following. Check out softmilkingegg.com for more info.



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