

Useful Points on “Pegging” *Otter’s Eggs*

Visibility Factors-Bead colors vs. Egg Colors for Otter’s “Soft Embryo Egg”© patterns:

- Our “Clear” egg colors of Apricot, Buff, Kiwi, and Salmon Egg **use lighter colored beads**. Use light orange, light red, hyacinth, clear or sun colors which work well in matching natural eggs.
- On the darker colors of our “clear” eggs, such as Tangerine, Tango, Tangerine/Red Flash, Tango/Silver Flash, Apricot/ Silver, **use darker colors** of red, ruby, garnet colors of beads for better visibility.
- Several of our colors are difficult to form with a visible, effective embryo. The Robin Egg Blue, Ruby, and Tangerine Opaque colors require a **very dark colored bead** to be seen as an embryo inside the egg.
- Our “**dead egg**” colors of Dead Egg White, Apricot Opaque, Tangerine Opaque and Kiwi Opaque **can be deadly** when fish are keying in on them, **as they often do**. All unfertilized or damaged eggs become “dead eggs” which vary and change colors **over a short time**, so all four of our colors listed above are effective. Use **solid opaque dark orange colored beads**, not clear beads, to form these embryos. This creates one of the **most effective and deadly patterns** for an *Otter* “**Soft Embryo Egg**”© fly. Give these a try-they usually work extremely well, especially on selective fish!
- Experiment for yourself with **different colored beads** versus our *Otter Egg* colors and **compare to the naturals** you find in your river. Remember, different fish **from the same run and river** can and do have **different colored eggs** and **different colored embryos** from one fish to another; also egg colors and embryo colors change over time as eggs remain in the river and start to develop.

Sizes of Beads vs. Otter Egg Sizes:

Our recent experience in using 10 mm eggs shows the **smaller 8/0 bead size**, **not** the larger 6/0 bead size, a better choice. The 6/0 size bead causes a **large hole** in the egg which leads to premature failure of the egg. Our web site has a chart listing egg size, bead size, and needle sizes needed under “**Tying Tips**”

Use of Beads-Wraps, kinking of leader, etc:

We suggest using **two full wraps** around each bead to tightly secure the bead on your leader. **To prevent “kinking” of the leader** caused by moving the bead down the leader if the loops are tightened prior to moving, keep two large 1 inch loops around the bead. Then insert a finger through the two loops and move both **loops and bead** to its final position 1 _ to 2 inches above the hook on your leader. When in final position, hold the bead and slowly tighten the 2 loops around the bead until the bead is snug on the leader. This way **no “kinking” occurs** above the bead on your leader.

Use hooks **one size larger and with a 3x gape** than the size we recommend for our tied flies for better hookups. For trout only use a fine wire hook for less visibility. Steelhead require a **2X or 3X strong** wire hook!

Bead Supply

Different bead manufacturers use variable color descriptions **for the same bead colors**, so **actual visual inspection** is the preferred method. You must look for **round or oval**, not faceted, **glass seed beads** for use with these *Otter’s* “**Soft Embryo Egg**”©. Beads are sold in “**ought**” (0) sizes. The larger the 0 size, the smaller the bead; the same as hook sizes. A 14/0 is **smaller than a 10/0 which is smaller than an 8/0** seed bead. **We now carry the correct bead colors and sizes on our web site so it is much easier for you to order these direct from our site.**