

Useful Points on “Pegging” Otter’s Eggs Rev.9-30-2011

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, Use of Bobber stops & Plastic sleeves, 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 ½ 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.

Instead of using a bead to hold the egg in place, **you can also use a bobber stop on the leader below the egg**. Eagle Claw and Frog Hair both have bobber stops available for this use. The Eagle Claw stops also come in both black and red colors, in three leader size diameters and the red looks especially good below an egg. You can also put a small plastic sleeve on the line above the bobber stop so the egg rests over that slide. It is easy to push a small plastic sleeve through the egg and then the egg will rest over the sleeve resting above the bobber stop.

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!

Beads

We offer several colors and sizes of beads to use with all our egg sizes. Visit our product line on our web site to view the different options for 4 mm, 6 mm, 8 and 10 mm bead sizes to use.