

Gray Hackle Peacock



The Gray Hackle Peacock and its close cousin the Brown Hackle Peacock (aka Red Tag) are particularly effective flies in the winter. Both are included in Bergman's list of 24 "essential" wet flies in *Trout*.

Hook:	0x-2x Heavy sizes 12 and 14, debarbed
Thread:	Black
Tag (optional):	Gold Tinsel
Tail (optional):	Red Hackle fibers
Rib:	Fine Gold Wire
Body:	Peacock Herl
Hackle:	Grizzly Hen

Cover the hook shank with thread to help reduce materials from spinning around the hook. If using a tag, tie in a piece of fine gold tinsel (gold side against the hook if using mylar) at a point midway between the point and the barb. Take three turns rearward and the back to the tie-in point. Secure and trim. If adding the tail, tie in at the bend. The length should be about the length of the hook shank. (If tying the brown hackle version, tie in a short piece of red yarn. The piece should be tied in the entire length of the shank to avoid a lump. Trim short.) Tie in the rib on the near side of the hook, Since we're counter ribbing, this will ensure that the first wrap goes under the hook and doesn't interfere with the tail. Tie in three to five pieces of peacock herl (it depends on how good the herl is how much you use. Assume one piece will break) and secure the length of the shank. Position the thread at the rear of the body. Gather the pieces of herl in a hackle pliers and twist lightly together. Wrap forward, pushing the thread forward as you go. This pack the herl for an even body. Tie off one eye length behind the eye. Prepare a grizzly hackle (brown if tying the brown hackle version) and tie in by the stem. Take three or four wraps and tie off. Build a clean head, and whip finish. Add several coats of head cement or SHHAN.