



JUNE 2022
FLY OF THE MONTH
"Picket Pin"



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PICKET PIN

The Picket Pin is one of those fly patterns that has stood the test of time. Developed as a trout fly for western waters in the early 1900's (1910-1915) by Jack Boeme, it gets its moniker from the nickname of the animal whose fur was used in the pattern. Ground squirrels or gophers were given the nickname of "picket pins" by cowboys because of their habit of standing upright in the fields. The fur from the gopher was used as the tail and wing in the original version of this hair wing fly. As the fly gained popularity and moved eastward, grey squirrel replaced gopher and over time became part of

the standard recipe. While recognized primarily as a wet fly, the Picket Pin is also very effective when tied in larger sizes and fished as a streamer. It can also be greased and fished as a dry fly. It is buggy enough that it is a good imitation for a lot of terrestrial insects, imitating everything from hoppers and crickets to beetles, cicadas, moths and large flies such as horse flies.

Tying Video: <https://vimeo.com/716877321>

MATERIALS:

Hook: Nymph/wet/streamer Size 8-14

Thread: Black 8/0

Tag: Fine gold tinsel

Tail: Two tips of brown hackle

Body: Peacock herl

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel counter- wrapped to reinforce the brown palmered body hackle

Wing: Gray squirrel tail

Head: Peacock herl over black thread



1. Place hook in your vise and start your thread. Add a tag of fine oval tinsel.



2. Take 2 tips of brown hackle feathers. Align the tips. Measure them about the hook shank length. Tie in the tail so that the tie-in is aligned with the hook point.



3. Tie in the rib of fine oval gold tinsel.



4. Take 4 strips of peacock herl and tie-in at the tail tie-in point.



5. Wrap the peacock herl forward with side-by-side wraps to a point approximately 2 eye lengths behind the eye of the hook. Trim the waste.



6. Take a brown hackle feather, size it, and strip off the waste end. With the top of the feather facing you, strip a few barbs off the bottom of the rachis and even a few more off the top. Now secure the hackle feather on the near side of the hook at the point where your body stopped.



7. Palmer the hackle rearward to the tail tie-in point and secure the rachis by counter-wrapping the fine gold oval tinsel rib forward securing the hackle. By counter-wrapping the rib you are further securing the hackle.



8. Cut a clump of natural gray squirrel tail for the wing. The length of the wing should be short of the end of the tail. Secure the wing to the hook with a few thread wraps.



9. Take 1-2 strips of peacock herl and secure to the hook at the wing tie-in position. Wrap a small head of peacock herl over the black thread. Secure the peacock herl and trim the waste.



10. Tie a small thread head, whip finish, and add UV resin or other cement.



Completed Picket Pin

Editors Notes: Comments from the editor.

Fly of the Month: Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them. If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact the Fly Tying Group at ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.

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