

Joe's Smelt



Recipe

Hook:	4 x – 6 x streamer hook size 2 through 8
Thread:	Red 6/0
Tail:	Red hackle fibers
Body:	Silver tubing
Throat:	Red hackle fibers
Wing:	Pintail flank or Mallard flank feather

Tying Instructions:

Start your thread behind the eye of the hook and lay a thread base to the bend of the hook. Tie in a small bunch of red hackle fibers for the tail. The tail should be about equal to the gap of the hook. Cut a piece of silver tubing ½” longer than the shank of the hook. Pull the material from the center of the tubing. Slide the tubing over the shank until it extends a little past the tie in point. It should be about the same length as the entire tail. Hold the ends of the tubing and secure with 3 or 4 wraps of thread. The tubing will unravel a little behind the tie in point, that is okay. Apply 3 half hitches and cut the thread and apply head cement to the thread wraps. Gently pull the tubing over the eye, then lift it until the eye pokes through the bottom of the tubing. Reattach your thread with a jam knot over the tubing approximately 1/8” behind the eye. Trim off any tubing on the eye side of the tie in spot. Tie in a small bunch of red hackle fibers for a throat on the under side of the fly. The throat should be a little longer than the gap (approximately a third to a half of the shank length). Now select a pintail flank feather for the wing. The feather should be long and narrow rather than short and wide. Strip the fluff of the base of the feather. Tie the feather in on top of the hook. Leave it a little longer than the tail (1/4”). Secure the feather with 4 or 5 wraps. Then pull the stem out over the eye to shorten the wing. This will also cause it to “tent” over the body. Form a small, tapered head. Use 3 or 4 half hitches or a whip finish to finish the head. Clip the thread and place a small amount of head cement on the thread head.