
FLY OF THE MONTH

Princess Di Perch - another proven Crowley Lake perch pattern.

- Hook:** Size 10 nymph hook 2X long or 3XL, Mustad 9671, 9672 or TMC 5262, 5263, Daiichi 1720, 1730.
- Thread:** Black 6/0
- Tail:** 4 to 6 strands of pearl or chartreuse Flashabou or Krystal Flash - short
- Under-Body:** Light olive, chartreuse or yellow dubbing with some sparkle flash mixed in. The thin body covers about 2/3 of the hook shank. I used Chartreuse Ice Dubbing for this version. I have seen similar perch with yellow, light green dubbing or even flat gold Mylar for the body.
- Body:** Two olive grizzly hen, concave in, about the length of the hook shank. The quill of the barred grizzly hackle tips are tied in at the front and each side of the body dubbing. The end of the tail was about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch longer than the hook bend.
- Gills:** 1.5 to 2 turns of red hackle
- Head:** 3 turns of reddish brown or olive saddle hackle.
- Thread head:** Black thread wrapped back on some of the brown hackle, forming a nice tapered head. (Tom Loe would add a few wraps of bright red thread at the rear end of the head for extra gill color.) Coat head with two or three coats of thin head cement.



Every year when we fish Lake Crowley just before the Double Haul in the Fall we meet many interesting people. One of the regulars from the San Diego area that has a reputation for catching big fish is a petite blonde named Di. I think she gave the Barbie Doll Special to Norb Spitzer and Bernie Fink two years ago that caught Bernie's large brown. I asked her for a new fly recommendation for this year. She came up with a little olive grizzly hen perch - she calls the Princess Di Perch. Di said her husband ties up this perch pattern but you can find similar olive grizzly perch in many of the fly shops. Vary the

color of the olive hen feather tips, light and dark. Di did pretty well with it, even when fish were not readily taking perch patterns. She likes to fish the perch pattern on 1X or 2X tippet while kick trolling or casting near the weed beds.

Best Guess Instructions by Lucky:
Secure the thread with a jam knot and wrap a thread base to the bend of the hook. Cut three or four 1 inch strands of Pearl Krystal flash or something similar for the tail. (I used some fluorescent green Enrico Puglisi Sparkle because I like the green/yellow color.) Attach the tail on top of the

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hook bend and make three tight wraps of thread over the middle section. Fold the front half of the flash back and secure with two wraps of thread. You may note I like the "folded material lock" method to prevent slippery tailing materials from falling out. You now have a sparse flash tail with 6 fibers. You will trim them, just longer than the hen hackle tips.

The yellowish green body can be made in many ways. I used a thin noodle of light green Ice Dubbing because I like the color. I think Di's just had a yellow poly yarn body or yellow / green sparkle dubbing like Antron. Some of the fly shops have the grizzly hen perch with gold Mylar wrapped on the hook shank. - Make a thin noodle of Ice dubbing and attach the tip to the hook shank above the bend. Once the tip is caught, twist the dubbing around the thread to tighten the noodle. Wrap the dubbing forward to cover only 2/3 of the hook shank. The thin cigar shaped body should end with enough room for the hackle and a thread head.

Select two rounded olive dyed grizzly hen hackles. Size them for a size 10 hook, about a hook shank long and a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide. Whiting Farms, Chickabou is a good source for these soft hen hackles. Match the hen tips for size and trim off a 1/8 inch off the quills for the tie down. Attach the hen tips concave sides in, shiny side out, on each side and just forward of the dubbed body.

Make some good tight thread wraps and a half hitch to secure. A little head cement would not hurt the wet fly. The gills on this fish imitation are made with red rooster hackle instead of red dubbing or thread. It is an extra step, but might be worth it. Select a red hackle and size it for 1.5 to 2 hook gaps. Attach the quill and make only $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 wraps of hackle, in front of the body. Tie off and trim the excess. Select a brownish red saddle hackle about the same size. Attach this hackle by the base and make 3 to 4 touching wraps. Keep a space of two eye widths for the thread head. Tie off the brown hackle and trim the excess. I use a large half hitch tool or plastic pen body to push back any stray hackle fibers before I make the thread head. Take the time to trim off any wild fibers to make a clean thread head. Form a fairly large head as you would a streamer. The tapered head should be almost three hook eyes long and 1 hook eye in diameter at the rear. Whip finish and apply a coat of head cement. Two or three coats of head cement make any streamer look better.

Many of Tom Loe's Punk Perch have a thin band of red or wine colored thread wrapped at the rear of the head. The extra red might not be necessary on this fly since it has the red hackle gill. But... I like the little detail and it makes any streamer better. If the fly was any bigger, I would paint some eyes on each side of the head.



Fly Fishing Club of Orange County Annual Auction

Hello Feather Benders and Kim's Group

One of my friends from the Orange County fly fishing club, Floyd Sabins, has invited us to attend their annual auction on October 25th starting at 6:30 PM at the Phoenix Club. It is a little far to travel, but if you like trying your luck on raffles and silent auction items you might like to make the trip. Our own members Bob and Diane Stafford are members of the FFCOC. They will probably be heading up there.

--Lucky

