

FLY OF THE MONTH

Cheech's Leech

by Bob Prince

Recipe

Hooks: #4 2x long streamer hooks such as Tiemco 5262

Weight: 0.25 lead or non-lead wire and 7/32", 1/30oz plated lead eyes

Body: uv-olive Polar Chenille over olive Simi Seal dubbing (front and back hooks), Crystal Flash (back only) and olive/green barred Sili Legs (front only)

Collar: Olive Marabou

Wire: .38mm, 15lb. nylon coated stainless steel

Beads: Two, clear orange or red, 6 mm.

Head: Olive Simi Seal

Thread: Black 3/0



Do you like seeing big predatory fish crush your fly? How about the feeling of the rod being jolted nearly out of your hand? Do you enjoy landing large trout? If you said yes to these questions you might be a streamer junky, or could soon be on your way to becoming one. It's true, big fish tend to eat big flies. This is particularly true in the case of large browns, which at a certain point in their life change from bug eater, into carnivore. Streamers let you target the largest trout in any river or lake, and give you a legitimate shot at hooking that "fish of the year" at any moment.

Contrary to popular belief, streamers aren't a game only for the fall months, when the browns are in their pre-spawn search and destroy mode. Streamers can be effective 12 months of the year, and the spring can hold some of the best streamer fishing of the year. The winter months also can be productive. Case in point, I landed two Bitterroot River browns pushing 24 inches on December 30 last year.

In recent years articulated patterns have become mainstays in fly shop bins. The reason is that articulated patterns just plain work. One of the better articulated streamers I've fished in recent months has to be Clark Pierce's deadly Cheech's Leech. This fly has all the ingredients of a big fish catcher. It swims great, has a lot of flash and movement, and presents a realistic bait-fish silhouette when wet. The beauty of this fly is that it is actually quite simple to tie and doesn't require a lot of exotic materials. This makes it easily possible to tie it in a wide range of colors. The techniques required are nothing new to most tiers, if you can make a dubbing loop, then you can tie this fly. I hope this helps ease the anxiety you might feel when first attempting to tie an articulated streamer. Whip up a few of these bad boys and you'll be ready to chase those big browns and rainbows. Once you feel a plus 20 inch fish totally destroy your fly, you'll

understand the phrase, "the tug is the drug." Happy streamer fishing! I have made an high definition video tutorial of myself tying Cheech's Leech that you can watch on your computer. The video can be found on my blog (called Bum Trout) at <http://bumtrout.blogspot.com/2013/01/cheechs-leech-fly-tying-tutorial-video.html> and also on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsveBn32U64>