

Fly of the Month

The Kreelex

By Jay Melser

Recipe

Hook : 4X long streamer hook, size 6
Thread: White 3/0 flat-waxed nylon
Eyes: 3/16" Dumbbell, brass or lead
Tail: Silver Kreinik equal to hook shank length
Wing: Silver Kreinik, cut to length of hook shank
"Beard": Gold or copper Kreinik, same length as wing



It is the time for streamer fishing on the Bitterroot and here is an easy-to-tie and effective streamer pattern. The pattern was originally developed by Chuck Kraft and is tied with Kreinik - a metallic embroidery material. While this is not normally stocked in most fly shops it just so happens that Jeff Gray at Western Flies and Guides is packaging it up from bulk supplies so you can obtain it there. I use any long shank hook (2X or 4X Long) from size 10 to 4 although I prefer ring eyed hooks as this fly rides inverted. Use the dumbbell eyes of your choice. The fly as shown uses silver and gold kreinik but an even more effective color combination for the Bitterroot is silver and copper. This fly is best fished when tied to the leader using a Non-slip loop knot. Lastly, I prefer a Rio 7 foot slow sinking (3.5 ips) sinktip and 3 feet of 1x tippet on a six-weight rod. Cast it across into likely looking water and strip it back. Like any streamer the Kreelex can be retrieved in short quick strips, very slowly with slow twitches, or simply allowed to swing downstream across the current steelhead style. If a fish hits the fly during the retrieve without becoming hooked don't rear back and yank the fly away, continue the retrieve and sometimes the fish will hit it again. Most streamer eating fish hook themselves. If you get a bump or see a fish follow or flash, finish the retrieve and make the same cast again to cover the same water and the fish may attack the fly again. At the end of the retrieve allow the streamer to hang in the current for a moment with perhaps a twitch or two, this sometimes provokes a strike.

A link to an excellent YouTube video on how to tie it is: www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0kF6We6MbU