Hogan’s Red Headed Step-Child

Hogan came up with the Red Headed Stepchild when fishing the Trinity River in Northern California. He wanted a fly to present on bright days with crystal clear water. Many guides use a red Copper John on the Trinity but Hogan felt it lost its effectiveness once the day brightened up. It is an attractor with the same red color of the red copper john but presents a more accurate profile and more subtle coloration. Hogan likes to fish it in tandem with a military may to match the hatch. It took me a while to get to the point of using this fly and having confidence in it, but after I started using it regularly it has paid off.

HOOK: #16-18 standard length or 2XS nymph hook (e.g.TMC3769 or Dai Riki 075)
HEAD: Red Glass Bead
TAIL: Pheasant Tail
RIB: Small or extra-small red Ultrawire
ABDOMEN: Pheasant Tail
WINGCASE: Medium spooled pearl or opal mylar
THORAX: Peacock Herl
LEGS: Red Flashabou Accent (metallic color)

Clay’s Notes

For information on Guiding, Classes, Workshops & Technique Clinics, Contact Clay Hash

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