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319 words

Ozark Brassie

The Ozark Brassie originated in Missouri, where it is primarily used in large sizes as an attractor for recently stocked trout. Its utility does not end there, however, as it can serve as a substitute for the San Juan Worm in large sizes, especially on tailwaters, and as an effective midge when tied small, on both tailwaters and spring creeks. I don't know whether or not the pattern is derived from the Rocky Mountain midge pattern called the Brassie, but since the Ozark Brassie is often tied in larger sizes than the Brassie and does not use peacock herl, I believe they should be treated as separate patterns.

How to Fish

The Ozark Brassie should be fished on a dead drift, tight to the bottom. It is most effective on tailwaters and spring creeks, but it can be effective anywhere. Note that its wire body makes the fly sink quickly, so split shot are seldom needed.

Tying Challenges

The Ozark Brassie is an easy fly to tie, once you get used to wrapping copper wire in touching turns. The smaller the fly, the harder it is to tie. Because it requires wrapping wire but is otherwise easy, the Ozark Brassie is a good practice fly for tiers looking to move on to more complex wire-bodied flies like the Copper John.

Ozark Brassie Pattern

Hook: standard or up-eye scud, #10-20.

Thread: 6/0-8/0 to match head color.

Body: colored copper wire wound directly on the shank. Red, copper-brown, and black are the best colors for wild trout. Stockers are suckers for green, orange, and other bright colors as well.

Head: sparkly dubbing to match or contrast body, dubbed rough.

Tying Note: most commercial examples of this fly in the Ozarks are tied on English bait hooks, but scud hooks have a similar taper but do less damage to trout you're planning to release.

They're also available in smaller sizes.

