



San “Don Juan” Worm

by Bob O'Donnell

Hook: Curved Hook size 12-16 (Firehole Sticks 315 works well)

Thread: UTC 70 Denier – Red (or Pink, Tan, Brown)

Body: 1/8” leather or faux leather lace

Collar: UV Ice Dub – Pink (or other colors)

Head: Tying thread with Head cement, Sally Hansen’s Hard as Nails, or UV coating

Tying Instructions:

1. Start your thread on the hook shank behind the eye and take a few wraps rearward before snipping off.
2. Lay down a thread base taking touching wraps back to about the hook point or barb.
3. Measure a piece of leather lace so its approximately 3x the length of the hook shank. Trim it off on an angle so it forms a point on each end. (once you cut one segment you’re ready for the next fly)
4. Center the leather on top of the hook shank and then tie it in where your thread is hanging. Take several good wraps to lock the lace in place.
5. Pull the leather back and then take a pinch of UV Ice Dub and create a short dubbing noodle. Wrap the UV dubbing to create a short football shaped collar on the hook shank.
6. Pull the leather lace forward and over top of the UV collar and then secure it with several tight wraps, you should end up slightly behind the hook eye.
7. Advance your tying thread under the lace behind the hook eye and take a couple of wraps before doing a 4-5 turn whip finish and then snip your thread free.
8. Place a drop of head cement, Sally Hansen, or UV coating on each thread wrap to help ensure the thread wraps won’t come unraveled.

Notes: This is a variation of “The Infamous Pink Worm” by Pennsylvania angler, Fred Bridges. Trout and steelhead seem to find this fly sexy and just can’t resist it! I’m convinced the secret is a combination of the leather material and the UV collar. Resist the urge to make the length of the worm too long and you’ll avoid getting short strikes. When nothing else is working, this is my “go to” fly to save the day. Dead drift it along the bottom and hang on. The fish hit it hard. Try it in other colors and combinations of UV Ice Dub.