

# BARR'S COPPER JOHN



## Recipe

Hook.....Nymph/Wet, size 10-18 2XLong  
Thread.....Black 6/0 or 8/0  
Head.....Gold bead  
Weight.....Lead wire  
Tail.....Brown goose biots  
Abdomen.....Copper wire  
Wing case....Black thin skin and pearl flashabou  
Thorax.....Peacock herl  
Legs.....Mottled brown hen hackle  
Coating.....Epoxy or UV Knot Sense

1. Crush the barb and place the bead on the hook by inserting the hook point into the smaller hole on the front of the bead. Slide the bead up to the hook eye and place the hook in the vise.
2. Now take a 4" length of lead wire and wrap 13-15 turns onto the hook shank starting at the back of the hook and wrapping forward. Trim off the excess wire. Now shove the lead wraps forward into the back of the bead, countersinking the wraps into the large hole on the back of the bead.
3. Start the thread at the back edge of the wire wraps (**make sure the thread is flattened**) and build a smooth taper from the hook shank up to the back of the lead wire, then continue to wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook forming a smooth thread base. Leave the thread at the hook bend.
4. Select two matched biots from the quill (**Pull two that are right next to each other to assure they are the same length and width**). Place the biots back to back so that they curve away from each other and even their tips. Measure the biots against the hook shank so they are equal to one-half the hook shank length. Place the biots at the hook bend with one on each **side** of the hook shank. Turn them slightly off-center toward the near side of the hook and tie them in with 2-3 wraps of thread. (**Pull straight down on the thread and thread torque will pull the biots into the correct position on top of the hook shank.**) Wrap forward (**with flattened thread**) over the butt ends of the biots up to and onto the lead wraps building a smooth tapered underbody. Clip the excess biot butts.
5. Cut a length of copper wire 8" long and tie it in at the front of the thread underbody on top of the hook shank. Keeping the copper wire on top of the hook shank, wrap flattened thread back over the wire to the base of the tail, then wrap the thread forward again to the front of the thread underbody forming a smooth tapered underbody. Leave the thread at the front of the underbody.

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Begin wrapping the copper wire forward from the hook bend in tight concentric turns butting against each other. Continue wrapping the wire forward to the front of the thread underbody. Tie the wire off with 2 tight turns of thread and clip off the excess wire. Cover any wire stub with thread.

6. Now continue wrapping the thread forward over the lead wire to the back of the bead head. Use only enough thread to cover the spaces between the lead wire wraps. Wrap the thread back to front of the wire abdomen.
7. Tie-in a single strand of flashabou directly on top of the hook and centered, with the length of the flashabou extending back over the abdomen. Wrap thread back over the flashabou and the front couple of turns of the copper abdomen. Let the thread hang.
8. Cut a strip of thin skin slightly narrower than the width of the hook gap. Remove the paper backing from the strip and tie it in shiny side up (that's the side the paper was on) centered on top of the hook shank at the same point where the flashabou was tied-in. The length of the thin skin should lay back over the abdomen.
9. Select 5-6 bushy peacock herls and tie them in by their tips at the same point as the thin skin, then wrap the thread forward to just behind the bead. Wrap the herl forward in tight concentric turns to the back of the bead head and tie them off. Clip off the excess herl.
10. Pull a small clump of fibers from the side of a hen hackle and align the tips. Lay the clump of fibers along the far side of the hook shank at the back of the bead head and tie it in. The fibers should extend back to the hook point. Cut off the excess fiber butts. Repeat this process on the near side of the hook. This forms the legs on the sides of the fly.
11. Now pull the thin skin forward over the top of the peacock thorax and tie it off right behind the bead head. **(Make sure to keep it centered on top of the thorax.)** Repeat this procedure with the flashabou. **(Make sure to keep the flashabou centered on top of the thin skin.)** Clip the butt ends of the thin skin and flashabou as close to the bead as possible, then build a smooth thread head behind the bead, whip finish, and cut the thread.

Mix a small batch of epoxy or UV Knot Sense and coat the thin skin wing case from front to back and side to side. **(It helps to run the epoxy up onto the back edge of the bead and down onto the wire at the back of the wing case.)**