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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : "Emerger" pattern questions

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So, I recently purchased some "emerger" patterns online, and I realized that I'm really not sure what to do with them. I have a couple patterns that are actually tied with a bead head, which confuses me a little - shouldn't emergers be drifting close to the surface of the water?

I've tried fishing them off of a short dropper, but haven't had much success yet.

1. Should emergers be fished dead drift? Or on the swing? Where in the water column should they be fished?
2. Is it ever worth fishing an emerger as a searching pattern when fish aren't rising consistently?
3. Could a pheasant tail nymph be considered an emerger pattern?
4. Aren't the low-riding "parachute" patterns also technically a stage of emerger?