

April FOTM: Pheasant Tail Nymphs

Chances are we have all been tying this fly since our beginning experiences in fly tying. This important nymph pattern represents most Mayfly species. What we will review here is the size, proportion and color that will help make your tying efforts as representative as possible. The first consideration must be the proportion, as 2/3 of the shank length shall be the body and the remaining 1/3 shall be the thorax. It is important that you maintain these proportions. This is a fun fly to tie,



and I know that you will be happy with the results. Note: This recipe calls for dyed, dark brown pheasant tail fibers, however regular natural pheasant tail is fine. I do feel the dark brown more closely matches the color of the natural nymph.

Recipe:

Hook: Tiemco #5262, Mustad 9671, Dai-Riki #730, size #14

Thread: 6/0 Dark brown

Rib: Small copper wire secured to the nearside of the hook shank extending rearward

Tail/Body: 6 – 8 pheasant tail fibers

Optional weight: .015 lead free under the thorax

Wingcase: 10 pheasant tail fibers

Thorax: 2 peacock herls from just below the eye

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush down hook barb and cover the hook shank with thread beginning behind the hook eye and wrap rearward to the beginning of the hook bend.
2. Tie in tail at hook bend extending rearward about 3/4 of the hook shank length. Keep tips even, do not trim.
3. Tie in copper rib on the nearside of the hook extending rearward. Leave thread hang at hook barb. Do not trim.
4. Gather the remaining body tail feathers and beginning behind the hanging thread, wrapping a tapered body forward exactly 2/3 of the hook shank. Tie off and trim.
5. Now counter wrap the wire rib forward in open wraps to the front of the body. Tie off and trim.
6. Measure the 10 wing-case feathers the length of the hook shank from eye to hook bend. Keeping the tips even tie in by the butt ends in the thorax area.
7. Build a level thread base in the thorax area. Return the thread back to in front of the body and let it hang. Do not trim.
8. Strip two peacock herls from just below the eye and tie them in just behind the hanging thread.

9. Like wrapping the body wrap the peacock hairs forward advancing behind the hanging thread building a robust thorax exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the hook shank in length or the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$. Tie down and trim.
10. Fold the wing-case over the thorax with the tip extending out over the hook eye. Tie down behind the hook eye but do not trim.
11. Evenly divide the extending wing-case tips into two groups of equal number and pull each group back along each side of the thorax forming legs on each side. Take a few additional wraps to hold in place. Whip finish forming a small head and trim.
12. Coat the wingcase with a thin coat of tying cement.

Tying note:

Maintain the fly proportion of $\frac{2}{3}$ body $\frac{1}{3}$ thorax.

To keep the pheasant tail fiber tips even, pull the 90 degrees from the feather stem and either tear off or cut off.

Enjoy and go fishing