

The Hare's Ear Nymph

The Hare's Ear Nymph, by far the most popular nymph ever developed, is so appealing to trout that it appears to have magical qualities. Like the Pheasant Tail Nymph and the Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph it represents several different mayfly nymphs, whether it's a crawler, swimmer, clinger or emerging burrower. This nymph may also represent caddis and stonefly nymphs depending on the size and color. The Hares Ear is certainly nothing new. Five hundred years ago, or so, fly fishers were tying flies from the facial fur of the hare. It is said that "other than the hook, a Hare's Ear tied hundreds of years ago looks identical to those we use today". Try variations of natural, olive and black, sizes #8 - #16.

Recipe:

Hook: Tiemco 5262, 5263, 3761 sizes #8 - #16

Thread: 6/0, Tan or Brown

Weight: Optional, sized to hook wire or gold, copper or black sized to hook

Tail: Mottled brown hen saddle feather fibers or guard hair's from hare's mask

Rib: Small gold Ultra wire

Abdomen: Dubbing from an hare's mask

Wing case: Turkey tail feather slip or optional peacock

Thorax: Hare's mask dubbing

Tying Instructions:

1. Crush down the hook barb and tie-in non-toxic lead in the thorax area.
2. Start the thread wraps in front of the lead and spiral wrap through the lead wraps building a ramp of thread behind the lead wraps wrapping to the hook bend forming a tapered underbody.
3. Select a large hen saddle feather for the tail. Remove the fluff and preen out a few fibers from the side of the stem to even the tips.
4. Measure the hackle tips so they are equal to half a hook shank in length. Tie in at hook bend.
5. Tie-in the gold wire ribbing with the ends extending forward along the side of the abdomen.
6. Cut some hare from between the eyes of the mask, and fluff -up.
7. Dub the tying thread and, starting at the base of the tail, wrap forward to about 75 percent.
8. Wrap the ribbing forward in 5 or 6 open spirals to the front of the abdomen. Tie-off and trim.
9. Wrap the tying thread back over the abdomen to about 60 percent to build a base for the thorax.
10. Cut a slip from the turkey tail feather about a hook gap in width and tie in with the dull side up at the 60 percent point. This will become the wing case.
11. Dub a robust thorax of hare's ear and wrap forward to behind the hook eye.
12. Fold the wing case forward over the thorax and tie down forming a small neat head. Whip finish.
13. Pick out the guard hairs from the thorax forming legs, keeping a fuzzy appearance.

Go fishing

-Bob Foster