

February 2018 FOTM: Starling and Herl Soft Hackle

The Starling and Herl is an excellent springtime pattern. It represents many emerging naturals and it is very effective mimicking small emerging Baetis mayflies. Fish it anywhere you find these insects emerging. This particular pattern is tied with a wire tag and rib.



RECIPE:

Hook: Tiemco 102Y size #17 or TMC 100 size #16

Thread: Black 8/0 Uni-Thread

Tag/Rib: Small Hot Yellow Ultra-Wire

Body: Natural peacock herl from below eye

Hackle: Starling feather from breast, back or wings

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Start the tying thread behind the hook eye and wrap rearward to the bend of the hook. Tie in a piece of Ultra-Wire and make about five tight wraps to form the tag. Tie off but do not trim.
2. Tie in two strands of peacock herl and wrap forward and tie off and trim just behind the hook eye.
3. Wrap the wire forward to form the rib about four turns and tie off and trim just behind the hook eye.
4. Tie in a starling feather by the stem and make about one and a half or two turns behind the eye. Tie off and whip finish.

Go fishing,

-Bob Foster