

January Fly of the Month - Black Ant

The simple black ant is an unbeatable summer pattern for trout and panfish. Fish it as a dry fly.

Hook: Choose a light wire, dry fly hook, 1X short to standard length, size 8 through 24. Common range is size 14 through 18. The pictured hook is a Mustad # 94837, size #14, short shank, 3X fine wire hook.

Thread: Fine black thread 8/0 for small sizes, and coarser 6/0 for larger size flies. I am using black to match the body but a bright color may be used, as an accent, to help see the fly in the water.

Body: Fine black dubbing.

Hackle: Fine neck or saddle feather in black or an accent color. Match the size to the hook using a hackle gauge.

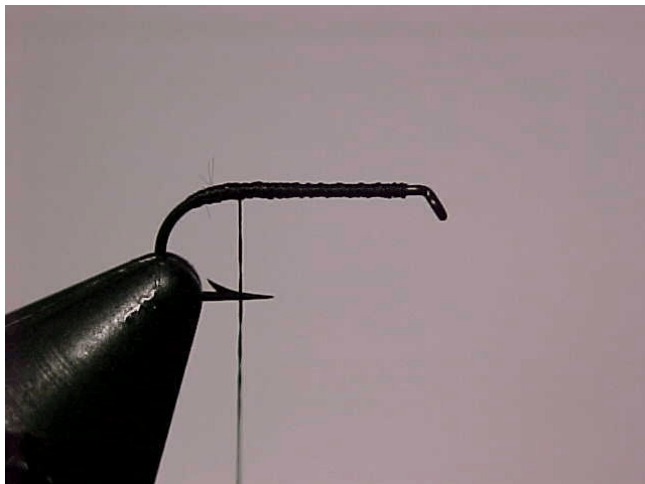


Figure 1) Tie in the fine black thread at the hooks bend.



Figure 2) Spin a rope of fine dubbing onto the thread.



Figure 3) Dub in the abdomen to form a ball at the rear of the shank near the bend.



Figure 4) Move the thread forward toward the eye and dub in a smaller ball for the head.

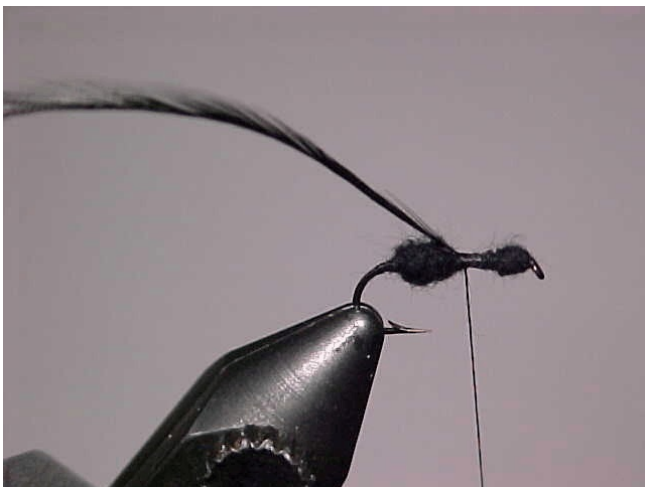


Figure 5) Tie in a single hackle feather at the middle.



Figure 6) Wrap the hackle 3 to 4 times around the hook shank and tie it in with the thread. Whip finish the thread to complete the fly. Add head cement if desired.



Figure 7) Completed Ant Pattern fly.