

Fly of the Month, January - Red Fox Squirrel Nymph

Dave Whitlock has tied this pattern with numerous variations. With a bead head; With a lead weighted body; weightless in the smaller sizes; with Hackle, or substitute living rubber legs in the largest sizes. Any version that you tie will be highly productive for trout or panfish.

Hook: 2X or 3X long shank nymph hook. Size 4 to 20. Similar to Mustad 9671 or 9672.

Thread: Black, tan or brown thread. 8/0 for smaller size and 6/0 for larger size hooks.

Weight: Brass bead head or lead wire wrapped around the upper 1/3 of the hook.

Tail: Red fox squirrel guard hair.

Wire: Fine brass wire or thin flat tinsel.

Abdomen: Red fox squirrel body fur. Use lighter color from the under belly blended with an equal portion of Antron dubbing of a similar lighter color.

Thorax: Red fox squirrel body fur. Use the darker color from the squirrel's back blended with an equal portion of Antron dubbing of similar darker color.

Legs: Dark Hungarian Partridge or Grouse feather. Substitute pumpkin color rubber legs.

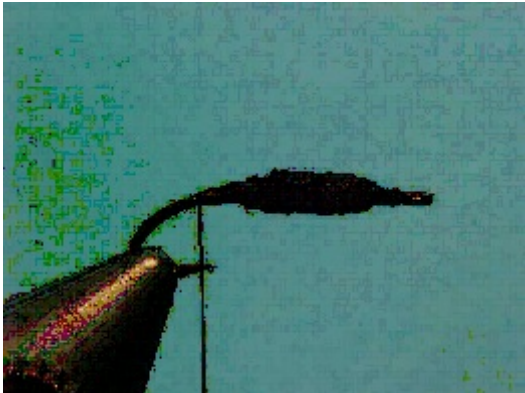


Photo # 1 Tie in the thread. Wrap the lead wire around the hook shank and keep it in the first third of the hook shank. Over wrap the lead wire with the thread and bring the thread to the top of the hook bend.



Photo # 2 Stack a pinch of red fox squirrel body fur and tie it in as a tail. Tie in a length of wire or tinsel to be used later.



Photo # 3 Dub in a body of the lighter color red fox squirrel fur mixed with the Antron dubbing. Dub the abdomen only to the 2/3 point to allow room for the Thorax. Spiral wrap the wire over the abdomen dubbing. Leave room in between the wraps to expose the dubbing in between. Tie off the wire.



Photo # 4 Dub in the thorax with the darker color red fox squirrel fur mixed with the Antron dubbing.



Photo # 5 Tie in a Hungarian Partridge body feather and make two to three wraps to form a soft hackle. Form a head and whip finish the thread. Trim off the thread and add a dab of head cement. Brush the body with Velcro to make a buggy appearance.

For Fly of the Month recipes and patterns, please visit

our web site at www.firelandsflyfishers.org

Tom Zmina, Director of Fly Tying,
Firelands Fly Fishers