

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Bloody Mary Nymph

If you are going to fish Missouri's Eleven Point River, you will need to tie up some dark stonefly nymphs, some golden stonefly nymphs, some big prince nymphs, and this little-known Bloody Mary nymph. This pattern is normally fished as the dropper to a heavy nymph so use a brass bead to keep the weight down. I will admit to being skeptical, but it proved to be the hot fly of the day.



Hook: TMC 3761 size 10-14 (bigger is better on the Eleven Point)
Bead: Gold Brass
Thread: 8/0 Black
Tail: Ginger or Brown Goose Biots
Body: Chinese Red Uni-Stretch Floss
Ribbing: Peacock Herl
Hackle: Hungarian Partridge

- 1) Thread bead on hook and secure in vise. Start thread behind bead and advance to the hook bend.
- 2) Build a small bump of thread adjacent to the hook barb.
- 3) Tie in a pair of goose biots- one on each side of the thread bump curving outward- to make a forked tail.
- 4) Tie in peacock herl ribbing on top of the tail. Whip finish black thread and trim.
- 5) Start Chinese red uni-stretch floss just behind bead and wrap to hook bend.
- 6) Remember to keep untwisting the floss as you wrap and form smooth slightly tapered body to just behind the bead. Whip finish the floss and trim.
- 7) Start black thread again just behind the bead.
- 8) Put a light coat of head cement over the red body and spiral-wrap the peacock herl rib to the bead while the cement is still wet. (makes a much more durable body) Tie off peacock herl and trim excess.
- 9) Just behind the bead, tie in a Hungarian partridge feather by the tip and make one or two turns.
- 10) Tie off and trim the partridge feather. Whip finish and trim the thread.

I suppose you could make this fly with other body materials or in different colors, but why would you want to? The color scheme is classic, and the profile is very buggy. Again, we fished this dead drift as the dropper under a heavy stonefly nymph.