

### Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

#### Halo Fox Squirrel Nymph

Dave Whitlock's venerable Red Fox Squirrel Nymph is a timeless classic that accounts for taking a lot of fish year in and year out. Over time, numerous variations have evolved with the development of new materials... and new vision.

I took a page from the European/competition fly tyers by adding a "halo" of SLF dubbing. Despite adding a tungsten bead and slimming the body down, this fly still has all the attributes Dave Whitlock endowed it with and it dives to depth and stays there. The addition of the prismatic collar adds a 3-D bubble that looks great under water and really attracts attention. We fished this as the anchor fly on the Current River and really scored some quality Browns and Rainbows everywhere we threw it.



Hook: Tiemco 3761 #12 - 14

Bead: Gold Tungsten

Thread: 6/0 Orange

Tail: Fox Squirrel Back Hair

Ribbing: Gold Oval Tinsel

Abdomen: Dave Whitlock SLF Fox Squirrel Nymph Abdomen dubbing

Thorax: Dave Whitlock SLF Fox Squirrel Nymph Thorax dubbing

Collar: SLF Prism Hare's Ear dubbing

1. Put bead on hook, secure in vise, and start thread just behind bead.
2. Advance thread to hook bend adjacent to barb.
3. Clip a bunch of fox squirrel back hair close to the skin.
4. Pull out under fur, and secure on top of hook extending about half the hook shank length.
5. Tie in ribbing at hook bend.
6. Dub a slender abdomen of the fox squirrel belly dubbing tapering up to the thorax area – about 2/3 the hook shank.
7. Rib the abdomen, tie off at thorax, and trim excess.
8. Dub a shaggy thorax of the fox squirrel back dubbing up to the bead.
9. Loosely lay the SLF Prism dubbing on the thread and loosely dub a collar just behind the bead brushing back the fibers as you wrap.
10. Whip finish and trim thread. Pick out collar so that it extends toward the hook.

This pattern really comes to life in the river current, but also dances when you strip it through your favorite warm water pond. Also try this "halo" collar trick on pheasant tail nymphs, hare's ear nymphs, and emerger patterns. Don't be afraid to take a great pattern and make it even better.