

**Fly of the Month**

*By Mike Ott*

**Hot Wired Partridge & Orange**

Attending my first Sow Bug Roundup in Mountain Home, Arkansas, I noticed that many of the local tiers love tying and fishing soft hackled flies. I mean *a lot* of local tiers tie and fish soft hackles. Why? They are relatively simple to tie and they just work – especially on the White River system.

Soft Hackles are great for effectively covering lots of water, imitate a wide variety of bugs, and stimulate fish to strike. While many tie the standard patterns and there is really nothing new about that, I was really taken with one tier using Ultra Wire for the bodies. His theory is that the old original flies were tied on much heavier hooks. These wire bodied flies sink a little deeper and rise up more in the water column when swinging in the current. They also have a segmented body and added flash.



**Hook: Tiemco 102Y size 13–17 or Dai-Riki 070 Size 14-16**

**Thread: 8/0 or 12/0 Black**

**Body: Small or Brassie Hot Orange Ultra Wire**

**Thorax: Fine Medium Hare's Ear Dubbing**

**Hackle: Partridge Neck Feather**

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread 1/3 back from the eye.
- 2) Make several wraps toward the hook bend and start wrapping down end of body wire
- 3) Continue securing the wire all the way to the hook bend keeping it on top of the hook
- 4) Wrap thread back over wire to thorax area.
- 5) Making very close wraps, wrap wire to thorax area and tie off. Trim excess.
- 6) Dub a very compact thorax leaving two-eye-lengths of bare hook shank behind the eye.
- 7) Prepare the partridge feather by pulling the fibers back from the tip and trimming tip to form a small V.
- 8) Tie in by the V-tip on the bare hook shank and make 2 wraps to just behind the eye.
- 9) Secure with thread and trim excess. Whip finish and trim thread.

Ultra Wire comes in a rainbow of colors. Try the florescent chartreuse for the Green Butt or two-tone green and olive for BWO emerges. Copper with a peacock thorax is hot as well. Fish these across the current to let it sink a bit before swinging downstream and rising up in the current. Strip it back or not – theories vary – and don't be afraid to fish a couple of them at a time.