

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Flymph

If you missed our all-day meeting featuring Dave Hughes, you missed a great one. Dave's presentation on wet flies was something of a blast from the past. In particular, he referenced Polly Rosborough and Sylvester Nemes as he presented soft hackled flies, wingless wet flies, winged wet flies, and flymphs. These are the authors and flies I grew up reading and tying. One of my favorites is the flymph – a combination wet fly, soft hackle, and nymph. They are easy to tie with just a few materials and on hooks that are not too big and not too small. They are easy to fish – either dead-drift, swinging in the current, or stripped across current – or a combination of all three.



Hook: Standard wet fly hook - Mustad 3906, Daiichi 1550, Daiichi 1530, etc. size 10 - 16

Thread: 8/0 Brown or Pearsall's Gossamer Silk Brown

Tail: Brown or Furnace Hen Hackle Fibers

Body: Hare's Ear Blended Dubbing

Ribbing: Gold Oval Tinsel (optional)

Hackle: Brown or Furnace Hen Hackle

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread a few wraps behind the hook eye.
- 2) Select an appropriately sized hen hackle feather by measuring it to be about 1 ½ times the hook gap, and stripping off all the fuzzy stuff at the base. Tie in feather by the base with the concave side out.
- 3) Advance thread to end of hook shank adjacent to a point between the hook point and the hook barb.
- 4) Strip about 10 -12 fibers from a larger feather on your hen neck and secure at hook bend extending about the length of the hook shank. Make a wrap under the tail to lift it just above horizontal.
- 5) Tie in a couple of inches of gold oval tinsel at the hook bend extending out the back (if you want a rib).
- 6) Advance thread about 1/3rd up the hook shank and form a dubbing loop about 3" long back to the starting point at the hook shank. Rub a small amount of dubbing wax on one side of your dubbing loop and hang your favorite dubbing twister on the loop.
- 7) Distribute a sparse amount of dubbing loosely on the waxed side of the loop and twist into a loose fuzzy "noodle".
- 8) Wrap dubbing loop "noodle" to just behind hook eye. Rib the body to the hook eye, secure, and trim excess – if you want.
- 9) Return your thread in wide wraps back about ¼ of the way from the hook eye. Wrap the hackle back toward the thread. Make two or three thread wraps to secure the hackle feather. Trim excess hackle and wind thread through hackle to hook eye. Wrap a neat head, whip finish thread, and trim excess.

It takes a lot more writing to describe the tying instructions than it does to just tie the fly. Before pre-packaged dubbing, most dubbing had to be done using loose fur and a dubbing loop. It's kind of a lost art, but well worth the effort to master. Feel free to adapt your favorite pattern into a flymph, but be careful not to make it too pretty...

They are supposed to be somewhat scruffy and disheveled. I hope Dave forgives my haphazard narrative here. His books do a much better job.