

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Euro Squirrel Nymph

I have always been a big fan of fox squirrel nymphs in all their infinite varieties. Dave Whitlock himself has several versions including a carp version and a saltwater version. This is another of Randy Hanner patterns I picked up at the Sowbug Roundup. Like many Euro-style nymphs, it is a streamlined, heavy, and pretty much bare-bones version of the original.



Hook: Hanak H310 or Dohiku Curved Caddis Pupae hook #10-12

Bead: Gold tungsten (back-loaded with lead wire)

Thread: Vevus 8/0 Brown

Ribbing: Brassie Gold Ultra-Wire

Back: ¼" Summer Duck scud back

Body: Red Fox Squirrel Belly dubbing

Thorax: Red Fox Squirrel Back dubbing

- 1) Place bead on hook and secure in vise. Make 6 – 12 wraps of lead wire and push up under the bead. How much depends on how heavy you want it.
- 2) Start thread behind the lead and make several wraps over lead to secure in place.
- 3) Tie in wire rib behind the lead and continue wrapping to hook with thread wraps back to hook bend.
- 4) Tie in scud back extending to the rear.
- 5) Dub a tapered body of Red Fox Belly to about 2/3 the hook shank.
- 6) Dub the thorax of Red Fox Back to the bead.
- 7) Pull the scud back forward over the back and secure behind the bead. Trim excess.
- 8) Wrap an evenly spaced rib of the wire to the thorax, then increase the spacing to the bead.
- 9) Tie off and trim excess. Whip finish thread and trim.
- 10) Pick out some of the thorax fibers.
- 11) Use a brown marker to color the scud back over the thorax area.

Randy fishes this as the anchor fly in his rig using it to bounce on or near the bottom while keeping in constant contact with it. On his way to the Sowbug, he had fished this fly on the Forth Fork of the White with great results. I have tied this in smaller sizes and not so heavy and done very well on Mill Creek and Blue Spring Creek. I don't think you can go wrong with any Fox Squirrel pattern as long as you are getting it wet.