

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Depth Charge Bird's Nest Nymph



In light of recent meteorological events, it is becoming increasingly important to be able to fish deep in high, turbulent water. The Bird's Nest Nymph, originated by Cal Bird, has always been kind of a secret weapon pattern that can be tied in a wide range of sizes and colors to meet a wide range of needs. It can be tied with or without a bead, but this one goes even further - using two tungsten beads and lead wire - thus the Depth Charge part. I saw this pattern in the January 2016 issue of Fly Fisherman written by Greg Vinci, and knew it was a winner for our torrential spring rain- swollen streams or out west for run-off times.

- Hook: Tiemco 2302 or Dai-Riki 280 #6-10
- Thread: 8/0 Olive
- Beads: 1 Smaller Brass or Gold Tungsten and 1 Large Black Tungsten
- Weight: .020 or .025 Lead Wire
- Antennae & Tail: Ginger Goose Biots
- Ribbing: Brassie size Copper Wire
- Abdomen: Arizona Synthetic dubbing Peacock Gold
- Legs: Partridge Hackle
- Thorax: Abdomen Dubbing Mixed with Hare's Ear or Fox Squirrel Guard Hairs

- 1) Place the gold bead on the hook the normal direction and start the thread behind the bead.
- 2) Tie in one goose biot on each side of the bead point forward like antennae. Trim excess biot and whip finish thread. Trim excess thread.
- 3) Place black bead on hook backwards and slide up against gold bead. Start lead wire behind beads and wrap to a point adjacent to the point of the hook.
- 4) Start thread at the hook bend and wrap forward and back securing the lead wire ending at the hook bend.
- 5) Tie in the two goose biots for the tail to form a V. Tie in wire ribbing and then dub a full, tapered, fuzzy body to just behind the bead.
- 6) Tie in the partridge feather by the tip, and make two wraps to form the legs. Tie off behind the bead and trim excess.
- 7) Form a dubbing loop. Mix the synthetic dubbing and the natural guard hairs together and place in the dubbing loop. Twist into a furry rope and dub the collar. Pick out dubbing to make it fuzzy.
- 8) Whip finish and trim thread.

Obviously, fish this fly as deep as possible without hanging on the bottom, but feel free to let it swing at the end of the drift. It also makes a great anchor fly for a multi-nymph rig. Try it in all black, olive, and golden stone colors. As good as it is for trout, try larger sizes for smallmouth bass.