

OSPREY FLY BOX

The Frenchy

contributed by

Rick Jones

This is a European style nymph pattern. Everybody has heard me talking about Czech nymphing, Italian nymphing, French nymphing and all the rest kinds of nymphing. It all comes down to the same thing. Get the nymph on the bottom and have it drift dead free. Really can work well, on small streams especially small Skagit size streams. I know anglers like to use dries on the Skagit, but try one of these during the middle of the day. The jig style hook rides point up so this keeps the fly from hanging up on the bottom. Try it and I think you will find surprising results.

I used it on the Thompson this year but felt the river was too large to use this method as a lot of the fish can hold out quite a distance from shore. On the Thompson this method worked well near shore where you could control the short casts, but the longer casts did not produce as well.

There are a lot of European style nymphs on the internet and instruction on how to tie and fish them. This pattern worked the best for me this last summer. It is actually a pheasant tail nymph tied on the jig hook and heavily weighted.

MATERIALS



List of Materials: For #12 (Size to Match the Naturals)

- Hook - #12 Hends BL 120
- Bead - 7/64" Brass Tungsten bead use the special ones that are slotted for jig hooks.
- Weight - 0.0015 lead wire 8-10 wraps
- Thread - Hot orange 08
- Tail - A few pheasant tail fibers (1/2 body length)
- Rib - Gold wire (not necessary to use real gold)
- Body - Natural pheasant tail fibers
- Hot spot - Hot orange dubbing or UV shrimp colour

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Put hook in vise after crimping down barb.
Add tungsten bead and slide to eye.
Wrap in lead wire from tail to bead, tie in thread at bend of hook and wrap forward too just behind bead.

2

2. Couple of stands of pheasant tail for tail (tie Short) snip excess.



3. Tie in gold wire and body material (8 Or 9 strands) at bend of hook.

2

TYING INSTRUCTIONS*..... continued*

4. Wind a the pheasant tail to form a tapered body to bead
Tie off and trim the excess.

5. Wrap rib forward (opposite direction to body) to bead.
Tie off and wiggle and twist the wire to break.



6. Dub in small amount of dubbing behind bead for hot spot.
Add a dab of head cement to the thread then whip Finish.

Because of the simplicity of this tie makes it easy to manufacture a bunch in a short time. The jig hook should assist in not hanging up on bottom however your still going to loose flies because these are heavy and designed to fish deep.

Nymphing No-Nos by Rick Hafele (except from Midcurrent.com)**#1: Don't be afraid to use small nymph patterns!**

For some reason most fly fishers pay close attention to the size of their patterns when fishing dry flies, but routinely grab the largest fly in their fly box when selecting a nymph pattern. It's hard not to. Even after years and years of experience to the contrary, I still have to force myself to select a size 16 or 18 nymph instead of a size 10 or 12....

#2: Avoid "Rootitis"

Rootitis is one of the most common afflictions of beginning nymph fishers, and it will seriously limit your success. How do you know if you have rootitis? If you find yourself parked in one spot fishing nymphs for 30, 20, or even ten minutes without getting a strike and not moving, you have rootitis....

#3: Change patterns that aren't working

This problem is sort of like rootitis in that you are continuing to do something that isn't working. With rootitis you are continuing to fish the same water. In this case you are continuing to use the same fly pattern....

#4: Get your nymphs to the bottom

Skip and Dave both mention the need to fish nymphs deep, which means near the bottom whether you are fishing in water two feet deep or ten. I want to emphasize this even more by saying: If your nymph isn't hanging up on or bumping the bottom at least once every five or six casts, you are not fishing deep enough and need to add more weight to your leader....

#5: Fish nymphs with as little line as possible

One of the main challenges of nymph fishing is detecting a strike and then setting the hook before the fish spits out your fly. All successful nymph fishing tactics maximize these two factors. No matter what tactic you are using, you will be more effective at detecting a strike and hooking fish if you shorten the amount of line you have on the water

Tight Lines & Good Luck!