

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## BEAD HEADED HARE'S EAR NYMPH

contributed by Gil Sage

The beaded headed Hare's Ear is a pattern I tie for fishing the Skagit; certainly I make no claim as to being the patterns originator as Hare's Ear patterns are very old.

In her book "Favorite Flies and Their Histories" published in 1892 Mary Orvis Marbury writes " To give the complete history of the Hare's Ear, sometimes called the Hare's Lug, would be to write of the season's changes and review the angling literature of centuries". The fly that Mary describes was a winged wet fly.

In his book "Nymphs" published in 1973 Earnest

Schwiebert writes that in 1676 Charles Cotton added "Being Instructions How to Angle for Trout and Grayling in a Clear Stream" to Walton's "Complete Angler". In his work Cotton included a list of sixty-five fly patterns and the "Great Blue Dun" which Cotton recommended for late February, sounds like the prototype for the relatively modern "Hare's Ear".

So you see that the Hare's Ear certainly has had amply opportunity to evolve over the centuries.

It is interesting to note that the basic material for the fly has remained unchanged, namely dubbing prepared from the ear of a hare which certainly speaks volumes for the effectiveness of this material in fly construction.

Generally, when tying a Hare's Ear nymph I used a typical tie which would be a tail and a wing case of wood duck or substitute, gold rib, hares ear body and would add weight using lead wire (it was legal back then) if I wanted extra weight. With the onset of beads, I found it easier to use them instead of wire but this posed the problem of what to do about the wing case so I decided to drop the wing case and tail and simply wind on a soft hackle such as partridge to impart some movement to the fly.

### MATERIALS

Hook:	Mustad 3906 #8
Thread:	Black
Head:	1/8" black tungsten bead
Body:	Hare's Ear, I use Hareline's dark or light Hares Ear Fur Dubbin
Rib:	Small gold wire
Hackle:	Brown Partridge

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Debarb hook and slide on tungsten bead



Start securing ribbing behind head of fly and wind thread down to rear.

Dub on hare's ear and wind up to bead. I simply dub the Hare's ear directly on to the tying thread, however you can prepare a dubbing loop if you so desire.



Counter wind the gold wire ending behind the bead; I generally give a few extra turns of wire behind bead to lock the bead into position. I do not cut the wire but wiggle it back and forth until it breaks off

Behind the bead head tie in a partridge hackle, tip first and with the shiny side facing forward. Wind on as many turns as you can get and tie off.

Body may be brushed out.

*The Finished Fly*



*Bead Headed Hare's Ear Nymph*

