



Dave Whitlock's Red Fox Squirrel Nymph

Submitted by Jeff McElravy

Materials:

Hook: 2XH, 2 or 3XL Nymph TMC5262 or Mustad 9671 Sizes #2 to #18

Thread: **Brown**, Tan, Black 140 Denier-6/0 *Need strong thread for Dubbing Loop.*

Weight: Bead or Wire wound around forward (eye) half of hook shank

Tail: Body hairs from the back of a red fox squirrel (tied gap width past bend of hook)

Rib: **Medium** or small Gold Oval Tinsel or gold wire depending on size of hook

Abdomen: Orange belly fur from a red fox squirrel blended about half and half with a synthetic dubbing close in color. *Some patterns call for Antron dubbing for flash.*

Thorax: Fur and guard hairs from the back of a red fox squirrel, blended about half and half with a synthetic dubbing close in color. *Some patterns call for Antron dubbing for flash.*

[Dave Whitlock SLF dubbing is sold by some companies, e.g., Mad River Outfitters sells Red Fox Squirrel –abdomen and Red Fox Squirrel – thorax dubbing].

Note: Some patterns call for a hen hackle between the thorax and abdomen (or in front of the thorax) in Sizes #14 and up. If you use a bead, it can be in front of or behind the bead.

Tying Instructions:

1. If you are going to use a bead, place it on the hook, small opening closest to the eye.
2. Start the thread just behind the eye of the hook and wrap it to the bend just above the barb of the hook (standard tie in point).
3. Take a piece of “lead” wire and wrap it tightly around the forward half in the hook shank. Wrap the thread over top of the wire back and forth widely several times to secure it in place. Finish the thread back to the tie in point.
4. Tie in a tail of some of the guard hairs from the back of the fox squirrel. You can use tail hair if you are careful. The length should be about a gap width past the bend of the hook.

5. Tie in a piece of gold oval tinsel about 2 to 3 inches long just in front of the tail. The end should hang loose over the back end of the hook for later use as ribbing. If you have a material holder, this would be a good time to use it.
6. Using the **direct dubbing** method, dub a tapered abdomen forward to about the center of the hook shank. *If you are going to use a hen hackle, this is where you tie it in. Make a collar with the hen hackle.*
7. Dub a thorax forward to just behind the eye of the hook (or to the bead). This is a good place to use the **dubbing loop** method. The thorax should be slightly larger than the biggest diameter of the abdomen.
8. Whip finish just behind the eye (or bead).

Note that in the smaller sizes a slightly finer, but still coarse dubbing should be used. In the larger sizes a very coarse dubbing is necessary. With the very coarse dubbing used in the larger sizes, dubbing loop will help produce the shaggy look desired in this fly. You can also use your bodkin (*or other appropriate tool*) to pick out the dubbing to give the fly its properly disheveled appearance.

Species caught: trout

This information is taken from *Southeastern Flies* by L.J. DeCuir. Menasha Ridge Press 2000. I purchased the book in the Great Smoky Mountain Park bookstore. *Jeff McElravy's comments are in Italics.*