

The Flying Squirrel Nymph

Lee Barbee

Red White And Blue Flies



The “Flying Squirrel Nymph” is a great mash up of two patterns, the Dave Whitlock’s “Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph” and Cal Bird’s “Birds Nest”. Tim Flagler put this fly together, and it has shown some success through some of the local guides in the area. This pattern is very buggy! It can be fished as a dropper or attractor pattern on your rig. Some fish this fly with Czech nymphing techniques as well. Let’s get started on how to tie it.

Recipe: Sizes 12-16

Hook: 2x long nymph hook

Bead: 2.7mm (7/64) tungsten or brass bead in Gold

Weight: Lead free wire, 0.020

Thread: UTC Wood Duck, 70 denier

Rib: Gold Ultra Wire, Size small or you can use Brassie size as well

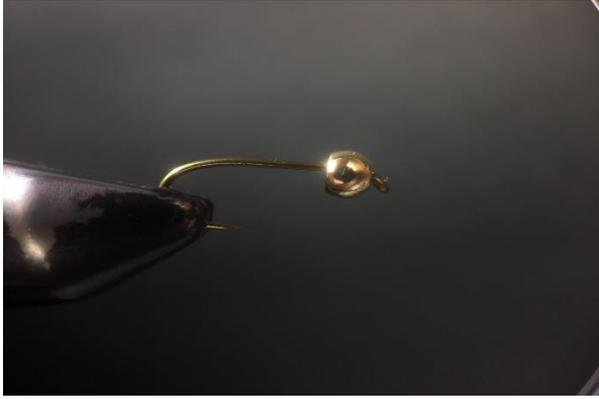
Tail: Wood Duck Flank

Abdomen: SLF Red Squirrel Abdomen Dubbing

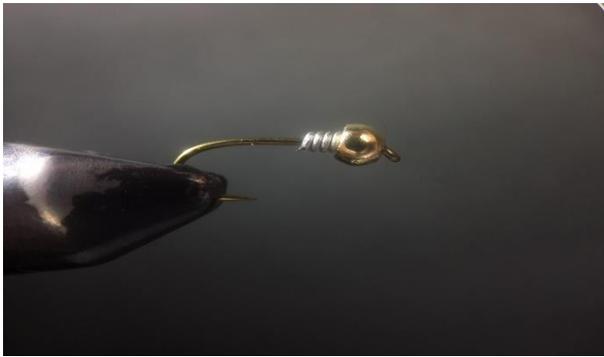
Legs: Wood Duck Flank

Thorax: Red Squirrel Thorax Dubbing

Head/ Collar: Thread



First, put your bead on and place it in the vice.



Add 5-6 wraps of 0.20 lead free wire



Start your thread behind the wire and build up a taper, wrapping over the lead wire as well. Stop where the barb should be.



Tie in 10-12 fibers of Wood Duck Flank and about one and one-half inches of the gold wire. Advance your thread behind the 0.020 wire. Snip off the excess wood duck flank off. Wrap your thread back to the tailing fibers.



Create a thin dubbing noodle on your thread. Then, wrap forward and stop at the 2/3's mark of the hook shank.



Wrap the gold wire up to your thread with even spacing. Tie it off and Half Hitch. Take off and excess wire using the helicopter method.



Take the wood duck flank and tie it in. You tie it in by placing the feather on top of the hook and put 3 wraps over it. This will make it mostly encompass the fly like a soft hackle.



Create a dubbing loop and add about 2" worth of sparse dubbing in it. Then spin it with your dubbing twister tool or shepherds hook. Wrap towards the bead. If its messy looking, it supposed to be.



Add some head cement to your thread, then whip finish. Let it dry, and it's ready to fish.