

## Wet Ant

There are two versions of this simple, but effective pattern: the dubbed and the thread ant. The thread version is a bit denser, and sinks a bit faster.

Hook -- Mustad R50 or similar, sizes 14-20

Thread -- Black, brown or red 8/0. For the thread ant version, use 6/0 or larger for the body

Body -- Dubbing to match thread color, or built up from thread

Legs -- Black or brown hen hackle



### Directions

#### Dubbed version:

Start the thread near the bend of the hook. Add some dubbing onto the thread and wrap a large ball of it, covering the rear third of the hook shank to form the gaster (abdomen). Use multiple thinly dubbed wraps rather than adding it as one large clump.

Advance the thread to the middle of the hook, and tie in a hen hackle. Make two or three wraps of the hackle, then tie off and trim.

Form the thorax the same way as the gaster, but slightly smaller.

Form a head, tie off and whip finish.

#### Thread version:

Start the thread near the bend of the hook. Using multiple wraps, build up a large ball of thread on the rear third of the hook to form the gaster (abdomen).

Move the thread to the front third of the hook and build up a slightly smaller ball to form the thorax. Form a head, whip finish and tie off. (The hackle will be added after the next step.)

Coat the built-up thread with several layers of lacquer, nail polish, UV resin or epoxy, depending on your taste, and what you have on hand. (Years ago it was popular to use nylon thread, and then give the fly a quick dunk into a solvent such as acetone to slightly melt. This made a nearly indestructible fly.) Allow to dry.

Start a thinner thread in the middle of the hook, between the two balls of thread, and tie in a hen hackle. Make two or three wraps of the hackle, tie off, trim the hackle and whip finish.