

Pheasant tail Nymph



Bill Lucia, President
Thomas Jefferson Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Step One Materials: #14 dry fly or nymph hook, black tungsten bead to fit hook size, small copper wire, Pheasant tail fibers. Black or brown 6-0 or 8-0 thread

After placing the bead on the hook and into the vise, start the thread 1/3 of the way back from the eye.

Place the wire along the near side of the hook extending back, cover with thread wraps and stop at the start of the bend.

Remove 4-6 fibers from the tail feather, place firmly against the shank such that a length of the tips extends 3/4 of the shank length past the bend. Wrap with thread back to the bend securing the fibers to the shank.



Step two

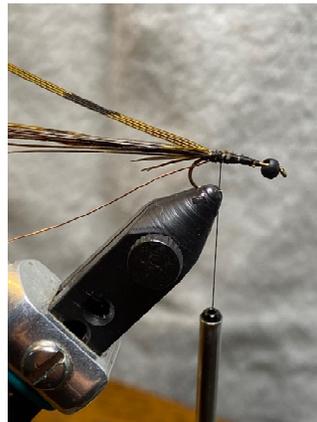
- Take hold of the butt ends and begin palmering them forward carrying the thread with them to the point $\frac{1}{3}$ the shank length behind the eye. Tie them off with a few wraps of thread.
- Counter wrap the wire in wide spaces (4-5) forward, tie it off, remove the excess and cut the butt ends of the tail fibers off.



Step Three

8-10 additional tail fibers

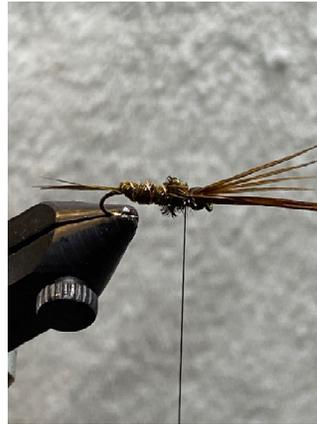
- Remove another 8-10 fibers from the tail and align them before measuring a length of the tip ends equal to the distance from the eye to the back of the bend.
- Holding these fibers firmly on top of the shank and with firm wraps starting at the $\frac{1}{3}$ tie in point, wrap thread forward to attach the fibers to the hook. Cut the remaining butt ends after the fibers are secure. Clean up the eye end with a couple wraps if needed.



Step Four - Wing

add 2-3 strands of Peacock herl

- Tie in 2-3 strands of peacock herl by their tips starting at the eye. and wrap with thread back to the 1/3 tie in point. (Your tail/wing fibers are still there extending rearward)
- Palmer the Herl forward carrying the thread with them again. Leaving a small space behind the eye tie off the herl with a few wraps of thread. Cut off the butt ends of the herl.
- Next bend the peacock fibers forward over the top of the herl, creating a wing case, and tie down securely at the eye. Do not cut the wing fibers!



Step Five – finishing the wing/ making legs

- Gently fold the peacock fibers back while at the same time splitting them into equal parts laying on either side of the hook looking like the swept wings of a jet.
- With a few wraps of thread encroaching on the bent fibers secure them in place, preen them into individual legs at a slightly downward angle and whip finish. Trim leg length as desired.
- A little head cement or super glue, if desired, over the wing case will add to durability and appearance



Voila – Pheasant Tail Nymph

