

Pheasant Tail Nymph... Russ Shields

The pheasant tail nymph in its many varied forms, is one of the truly great mayfly imitations in the history of fly fishing. The wise long rod angler will carry a considerable collection of pheasant tail nymphs in various sizes while on the hunt for any sweetwater species of fish; be they from stream, river, or stillwater.

Materials

Hook	Mustad 9627 nymph/streamer 3XL, size 12*
Weight	015" round lead-free wire
Thread	6/0 brown
Rib	Brassie size copper wire
Tail	Ring neck pheasant tail fibers
Abdomen	Ring neck pheasant tail fibers
Wing case	Ring neck pheasant tail fibers
Thorax	Peacock herl
Legs	Ring neck pheasant tail fibers



* Pheasant tail nymphs are generally tied in sizes 12-20.

Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and mount it in the vise. To weight the fly, take 7 touching wraps of lead-free wire around the hook shank and cut away the tag ends. With your thumb nail slide the wire wraps on the hook shank so the front of the weight wrap is two hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Using a jam knot, tie the thread onto the hook in front of and adjacent to the weight wraps. Take several loose thread turns back and forth over the weight wraps to secure the wraps in place on the hook. With thread wraps, form a neat tapered dam at the front and back of the weight wire. Continue to wrap the thread toward the rear of the hook to form a neat tapered underbody stopping at a point directly over the hook barb thus establishing the rear tie-in or thread hang point. At the thread hang point, tie on a 6" length of copper rib wire to the top of the hook shank. Bind the rib wire to the top of the hook shank with thread wraps forward to the back of the weight wire.



2. Cut away the rib wire tag end. Wrap the thread back to the rear tie-in point directly over the hook barb. With the pheasant tail feather barbs still attached to the feather stem or quill, align the tips of 6-8 feather barbs and cut them away close to the feather quill. Measure the feather barb tips so they will form a nymph tail with a length equal to the hook shank. Tie the feather barbs to the top of the hook at the rear tie-in point. Do not cut away the excess feather barbs extending forward over the top of the hook as they will be used to form the abdomen.



3. Fold the barb butts back and advance the thread forward to the middle of the hook shank. To form the abdomen, gather the barb butts together and wrap them forward in neat touching turns to the mid hook thread hang point. Tie off the abdomen wraps with 3 or 4 thread turns.