

Fly of the Month

Scud / Nymph

Jim Ferguson

By Jim Ferguson

The Scud / Nymph is a general nymph pattern on a scud hook using the J:sonSweden Realistic Nymph Back material. This back material comes in three sizes. I used a fairly heavy and stout hook in this step-by-step since I am planning on using it where some larger fish live. Other back material could be used such as thin skin. This nymph should be a good one for winter or early spring use. I would fish it over weed beds or if out in a float tube, get yourself off from the shore and cast back toward the shore or parallel to the shore and work the fly back in short jerks. When using a pattern like this on a lake, I would use a floating line with a sink tip or an intermediate line with a slow irregular retrieve.



Thread: Olive UTC 70 (8/0) or color to match body
Hook: TMC 2457 #10 (Caddis pupae & shrimp, 2xH, 2xW, 2xS)
Eyes: Black mono
Tail: Fibers from a Grouse or Partridge wing covert
Back: Realistic Nymph Back J:sonSweden size SC1
Dubbing: Paxton's Nymph Dubbing (mix of 7 colors)
Hackle: Grouse or Partridge soft hackle

Dubbing Mix was made from Paxton's Buggy Nymph selections - equal amounts of the following colors

#1 Rust, #4 Drake Brown, #9 Sage Green, #13 Copper, #17 Isonychia, #23 Golden Stone, and #29 Blue Olive. This may be overboard but dubbings seem to be preferred that are mixes. Just choose a buggy dubbing mix out of something that aides sinking (non-antron.)

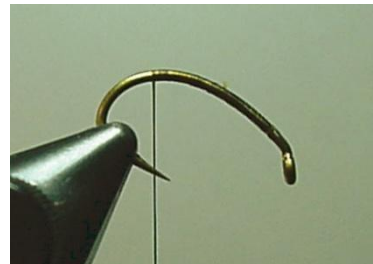
Tying Step-By-Step Directions

1. Place hook in the vise, attach thread about 1 eye length behind eye and wrap a thread base towards the rear (Fig #1.) Adjust the angle of the hook in the vise to allow wrapping thread down the bend of the hook (Fig #2.) How far down? A general guide is the thread, when perpendicular to the hook wire, should make close to a 45 degree angle with the hook point when thread is aligned with the hook point.

Fig #1



Fig #2



2. Select some fibers from a partridge or grouse covert for tail fibers. Stroke them back to even up the tips (Fig #3) and pull or cut them from the stem. Tie them in at the tail tie in position of the hook shank (Fig #4.) Tail should be one half to one hook gape in length angled tangent to the shank.

Fig #3



Fig #4

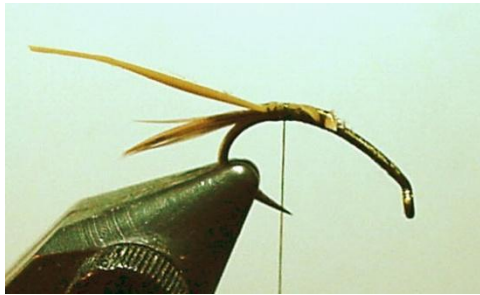


3. Select the size of nymph back material appropriate for your hook (Fig #5.) Attach it at the tail tie in position pointing to the rear with the rounded side down so it will be oriented correctly when pulled up and over the body (Fig #6)



Fig #5

Fig #6



4. Dub a short section of the hook shank close to the tail and body tie in position (Fig #7.) Remount the hook so the shank is level (Fig #8.) Select a soft hackle long enough to make three or more turns around the body and with fibers one to one and a half gape length (Fig #8) I used hackle with longer fibers. Tie in the hackle by the tip with the good side up so the hackles will flow back when it is wrapped forward. Take your thread forward and attach a set of mono eyes about an eye length behind the eye of the hook. Secure the eyes with figure eight wraps (Fig #9.)



Fig #7



Fig #8



Fig #9

5. Wrap the thread back to hackle tie in position and dub the remainder of the body (Fig #10.) You want to dub a tapered body that is a little chunky. Dub up to the back of the eyes (Fig #11)



Fig #10



Fig #11

6. Spiral wrap the hackle forward making 3 to 4 turns. Tie off behind the eyes. Separate the fibers to make sure they are distributed close to perpendicular to the hook shank (Fig #12.) Add a small amount of dubbing to your thread and dub around the eyes in figure eight wraps and behind and in front of the eyes to form the head (Fig #12.) Pull the hackle fibers on top of the shank towards the side and direct them downward along the sides of the body (Fig #13.) Bring the back material up and over the body and tie it down in front of the mono eyes and behind the hook eye (Fig 13.) Trim off the wastes. Whip finish using your thread behind the hook eye. Two sets of whip finishes using three wraps each should be sufficient.



Fig #12



Fig #13

7. To make the body segmentations, make several wraps behind the eyes and whip finish (Fig #14.) Cut the thread and re-attach in the middle of the shank. Make sure legs are not trapped as you make several thread wraps to form the segmentation. Whip finish and cut the thread. Make one more thread section towards the rear. Again, be careful not to trap any of the hackle fibers as you make the wraps. Whip finish and cut the thread. Stroke the leg fibers down and towards the rear. Add head cement to the segmentation wraps. Fig #15 shows a top view.



Fig #14



Fig #15

Variations: You may wish to omit the eyes. Antenna projecting forward adds a touch. Hot spots can be added at the first body section at the rear. The segmentation technique used here is time consuming. You could add a small gold or copper wire before dubbing the first body section at the rear and then wrap the wire forward in 3 to 4 turns over the back material. Tie off such a wire behind the eyes and then form the head and dubbing over the eyes as described above. A hen hackle could be used instead

of the partridge for the body hackle. Using a hackle with shorter and finer fibers could allow more wraps up the body.