

Frenchie Nymphs

A variant of the traditional pheasant tail nymph

Traditional Tie and Some Variations



Traditional Frenchie

Hook: 18-10 standard wet fly (Mustad 3906 or 3906b) or jig hook
Thread: Orange or brown, size 6/0 or 8/0 per hook size
Body: Pheasant tail fibers
Rib: Brass wire
Tail: Coq de Leon Tailing, pheasant tail fibers or brown hen hackle
Collar: Peacock strand, peacock ice dubbing, or other color (white, red, orange, purple)
Collar hot spot: red or orange thread.

Tying Steps: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWsL_XDtX5I

1. Crush barb and add bead per hook size. Traditionally a brass colored bead, but experiment!
2. Add 5-8 turns of 0.015 lead free weight immediately behind bead.
3. Attach thread to hook shank, and secure lead wire with wraps. Build smooth taper from bead back to hook bend.
4. Attach 8-10 tail fibers extending the length of the hook shank past the bend.
5. Tie in brass wire just in front of tail fibers. Use 'brassie[size or smaller/
6. Snip 8-10 fibers from pheasant tail feather, even ends, trim and tie in by tips in front of tail. Wind fibers forward to just behind bead and secure.
7. Counter-wrap wire over pheasant tail fibers.
8. Add desired dubbing and any thread collar, if any, immediately behind the bead.;
9. Whip finish and apply head cement to thread.

Some Alternative Ties

- A. Use olive dyed pheasant tail feathers.
- B. Omit tail or collar or thread hot spot.
- C. Use black, brown or olive wire ribbing in place of brass.
- D. Use thread in place of wire ribbing. Make a long tag end when attaching thread, use as rib.
- E. Use all thread body and coat with UV resin for a "perdigon" effect.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC61YPI69J0> or <https://www.flyfishfood.com/blogs/euro-nymph-tutorials/thread-frenchie>
- F. Create thread body (thin) then over-wrap with micro tubing, larvae lace or similar materials for highly segmented look.
- G. Add a "soft hackle type" collar with hen or partridge feather.
<https://www.flyfishfood.com/blogs/euro-nymph-tutorials/the-picric-frenchie>
- H. Create narrow thread body, wrap with tinsel or flash, then coat with UV resin.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzSFwrc76yk>
- I. Blackout version: black bead, black dubbing or dyed pheasant tail body, purple dubbing and wire rib. <https://lelandfly.com/blogs/leland/black-claret-frenchie-nymph-pattern>
- J. Full Bling version: pink, red, green or fluorescent bead; tinsel body; UV resin.