

DAVE'S REAL SKUNK



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Opening Comments

Dave Hamilton of Grants Pass, Oregon ties this pattern at nearly every show or Conclave that he attends. These pictures were taken at the 2012 International Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane, Washington. In addition to skunk he has tied the pattern with fox mask dyed black, squirrel dyed orange, natural squirrel, mink and woodchuck. Now a few words should be said about collecting the skunk pelt. If your local fly shops don't carry it, check around on the internet. Above all do not pick up road kill; your roommate will kick you out of the house when you bring it home.

Yes it catches fish. Fish it in streams and lakes like you would any other wet fly. Use a floating line if it is shallow water, a sink tip if it is a little deeper and a full sink line in the deep water. Vary the retrieve and depth until the fish tell you what they like. Then keep it up until the fish get bored with your presentation. Or maybe you educated all of the fish in that spot, and you will have to move on. Release the fish carefully so you can play with them another day.

Materials list

Hook: Down eye nymph hook, 1X long, size 12 etc.

Bead: Glass bead green outside and red center. Size 8 seed bead. (or brass bead)

Weight: Lead wire, 0.015-inch

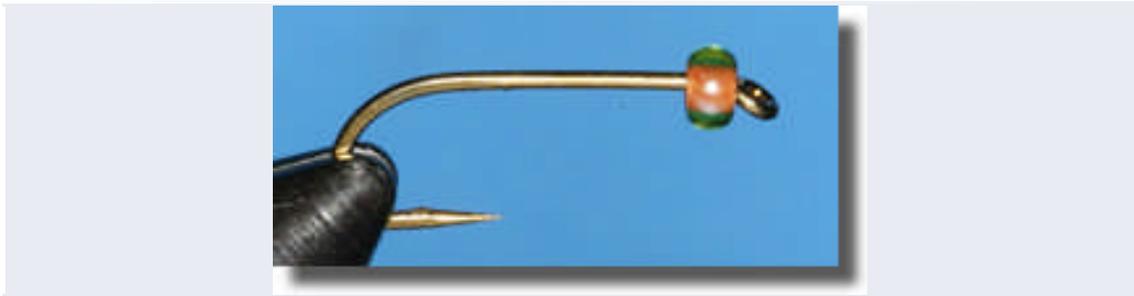
Thread: 8/0 black

Tail: Skunk guard hair.

Rib: Copper wire, fine

Collar: Ostrich herl, black

Tying steps



Step 1

Smash down barb or use barbless hooks. The fish are easier to release, and the hooks are easier to get out of the angler.



Step 2

Put 4 to 6 wraps of lead wire behind bead.



Step 3

Attach thread behind the lead coil, and build a thread ramp behind the lead coil. This holds the lead coil in place.



Step 4

Wrap thread over the lead to secure it, and then wrap back to a point over the barb. Cut off a small clump of guard hairs and under fur, and clean out the under fur. Dave takes the under fur home and runs it through a blender to fluff it up. You can use the under fur as is, but he prefers to fluff it up. Stack the guard hairs for the tail. Measure a shank length tail, cut off the excess right behind the lead coil, and tie it on top of the hook.



Step 5

Tie fine copper wire under the hook, bend the tag end back, and wind thread over it to make it extra secure. Dave does this with the hook upside down.



Step 6

Dave put the dubbing directly on the thread. He feels that skunk under fur is an outstanding material. Wrap dubbed thread forward to the bead. Then counter wrap wire rib. Cut wire at top of the bead. Fold it back, and put a few thread winds over it.



Step 7

Wind thread back to the body, and tie on a black ostrich herl. Put on a half hitch and move the thread out of the way. Wrap the ostrich herl forward, secure and trim excess. Whip finish right behind the bead. Put on a little head cement. His head cement is thinned by 50 percent, and it soaks in immediately.

Closing Comments

Very quickly you will get up to speed with this fly. So tie a bunch and go fishing.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.

You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at
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