

Fly of the Month

The Hares Ear nymph



Hook :- Wet fly or 2x long nymph 10-16

Tail :- Hares mask guard hairs

Rib :- Gold wire or tinsel

Body and thorax :- Hares fur dubbing

Wing case :- Slip of turkey wing

There are probably two nymph patterns that would be readily recognised anywhere in the world where fly fishermen chase trout. One is the pheasant tail nymph and the other is the Hares Ear. Ask a few fly fishermen what they think it represents and you will get a few different answers. It could be a mayfly nymph or a cased caddis, maybe even the nymph of a stonefly or damselfly. Perhaps the secret of its success with trout and trout fishermen worldwide is that it could be any one, or none, of those trout food items..... just an interesting thing that looks like it should be eaten.

Like most nymphs the Hares Ear is nice and straightforward to tie. Lay your foundation thread from eye to just above the barb and tie in a bunch of hares mask guard hairs about half shank length and the wire or tinsel ribbing. Then dub your thread and wind it forward to a point about a third of the shank length back from the eye. Wind the ribbing wire forward in three or four turns and tie off at the same point. Next tie in a slip of turkey wing and leave it pointing back over the body. Apply some more dubbing to the thread and build up a thorax slightly fatter than the body to just behind the eye. Pull the turkey wing slip over the thorax and tie it off. Trim the surplus, make a small head with the tying thread and the fly is finished.



There aren't many variations to a good old standard like the Hares Ear nymph but a beadhead version is popular and some like to use copper ribbing in place of the gold. It can be made two tone by using lighter and darker fur from the same mask. And if you can't get hold of a hares mask rabbit makes a reasonable substitute.

Alan T.

