

Fly of the Month

The red bead black nymph



- Hook :- Wet fly or nymph 12 -14, round bend
- Tail :- Black cock hackle fibres plus strand of Krystal flash or similar
- Rib :- Fine silver wire
- Body :- Black seals fur or substitute
- Head :- Red bead

Start by placing the red bead on the hook and building up a dam of thread behind it to keep it against the eye. Colour of thread doesn't matter because it's not seen on the finished fly and a round bend hook makes it easier to get the bead on. Take thread back to just above the barb and tie in a strand of Krystal flash, a bunch of black hackle fibres and the silver ribbing wire. Add black seals fur dubbing to the thread and wind it forward to behind the bead, building up a nice carrot shaped body to finish the same diameter as the bead. Wind the ribbing wire forward in three or four turns and tie it off behind the bead. A wrap knot or whip finish where the ribbing is tied off and the fly is finished.

I use glass beads from Chicken Feed or the Reject Shop (\$2.00 for a lifetime's supply) but red coloured brass beads are available from fly tying material suppliers. If you don't have the beads you can build up a large head with bright red thread and varnish it. The fly can also be weighted with fine lead wire as an underbody, in which case I use copper wire instead of silver for the ribbing so that I can pick the weighted ones in the fly box.

The red bead black nymph accounted for about 25% of my fish in the 2012-13 season and is becoming very popular amongst club members. I usually fish it under an indicator in tandem with either a stick caddis or brown nymph.

Alan Taylor

