

PARTRIDGE & ORANGE SOFT HACKLE



Recipe

Hook.....Dry, size 12 - 18

Thread....Orange 8/0

Body.....Orange floss

Thorax....Hare's ear dubbing

Hackle.....Brown hen or partridge

1. Tie-in a single strand of floss just as you would thread, about a 1/3d of the hook shank behind the hook eye. Wrap the floss back to the hook bend, then reverse the floss and wrap a second layer back to slightly behind the hook eye. Tie a half-hitch with the floss and trim the excess. **(You can also make two more layers of floss for a thicker body, if desired.)**
2. Tie-in the thread behind the hook eye on top of the floss and wrap back to the original floss tie-in point. Trim off the thread tag and let the thread hang.
3. Dub the thread and wrap it forward to form a thick, short thorax covering half the distance to the hook eye. Remove any excess dubbing and let the thread hang.
4. Select a hackle feather and, holding the tip, preen back the barbs so that they are perpendicular to the feather shaft. Strip the barbs from one side of the feather **(With the concave side (the barbs will be folding away from you) of the feather facing away from you, strip off the barbs on the right side of feather.)**
5. Tie-in the feather by the tip in front of the thorax. **(Ideally, the feather should be on its stripped edge, cupped surface facing back over the thorax, its tip toward you and slightly forward, and the rest of the feather away from you and slanting back.)**
6. Trim off the excess tip, wrap the thread forward to just behind the hook eye, and wrap the feather forward for 2-3 turns and tie it off. Trim off the excess feather. Pull the wrapped fibers back toward the hook bend and build a small thread head behind the hook eye. **(Wrap the thread tight against and slightly onto the hackle fibers to ensure that the barbs lean back over the thorax.)** Whip finish the head and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the head.