

SQUIRRELLY CUSS



Recipe

Hook.....Streamer or curved nymph, 2x long, size 8-14
Head.....Brass bead
Thread.....Black 6/0
Tail.....Squirrel body fur
Rib.....Copper Wire, small
Abdomen....Floss, red, green, orange, yellow, blue, or purple, your choice
Collar.....Squirrel body fur
Legs.....Black round rubber

1. Place the bead on the hook, then place the hook in the vice. Tie-in the thread behind the hook eye, and wrap a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Remove any thread tag.
2. Clip a small bundle of hair from a squirrel hide (**NOT THE TAIL**), clean out the underfur, and try to even the tips as much as possible.
3. Tie the hair in on top of the hook shank at the hook bend as a tail with the tips extending out past the hook bend. Wrap the thread in tight thread wraps forward over the hair butts to slightly behind the bead. Trim off any excess hair butts and let the thread hang. ***(The tail should be roughly the length of the hook shank in length.)***
4. Cut a piece of ribbing and tie it in by one end right behind the bead, then wrap the thread over the ribbing back to the hook bend. The length of the ribbing should extend out over the hook bend.
5. Cut a 4"- 5" piece of floss and tie it in tightly against base of the tail, then wrap the thread forward in touching turns to slightly behind the bead. *(The idea is to use the thread to form an even underbody for the floss body.)* Let the thread hang.
6. Grasp the floss and wrap it forward in touching turns to just behind the bead and tie it off. Remove any excess floss. *(You should now have a smooth floss body.)*

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7. Now palmer the ribbing forward over the floss body in 5-6 turns to behind the bead and tie it off. Remove any excess ribbing. Let the thread hang.
8. Form a dubbing loop right behind the bead. Cut a batch of body hair (with hair as long as you can find), clean out the underfur, and measure it for length. ***(The hair should be long enough to reach from behind the bead to somewhere between the hook point and the hook bend.)*** Place the hair carefully into the dubbing loop and, keeping the loop taut, spread the fur out in the loop so that you have about 1 1/2" to 2" of hair in the loop (basically this is enough for 2-3 turns on the hook shank). Keeping the loop taut to keep the hair in place, use a pair of sharp scissors to trim the butt ends of the hair in the loop close to the thread. Spin the loop and create a hair dubbing brush. Wrap this brush around the hook shank behind the bead for 2-3 turns and tie it off. Remove any excess dubbing brush. Let the thread hang.
9. Cut 2 pieces of rubber leg about 2"-3" long and tie one piece in by its middle directly behind the bead on the side of the fly, then do the same thing with the other leg on the other side of the hook. Both the front and rear legs should be about the length of the hook shank (The front legs can be a little shorter at your option.) and parallel to the hook shank.
10. Do a whip finish behind the bead and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the whip finish, if desired.