

## SQUIRRELLY NYMPH (WHITLOCK VARIANT)



### Recipe

Hook.....Caddis/Wet Nymph (Mustad C67S), size 6

Thread.....Tan 6/0

Tail.....Golden Pheasant Tippets

Body.....Dubbing brush made with Dave Whitlock Red Fox Squirrel  
(abdomen) dubbing and copper wire (med)

Thorax.....Peacock Herl (twisted in a dubbing loop)

Hackle.....Hungarian Partridge

1. Place the hook in the vise. Attach the thread slightly behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Let the thread hang.
2. Select a small (10-15 barbs) 5 tuft of Golden pheasant tippets and tie them in on top of the hook shank at the hook bend. **(The tail should be the length of the hook shank.)** Wrap over the tippet butts to a point 1/3 of the hook shank behind the hook eye. Trim off any excess butts and return the thread to the hook bend. Let the thread hang.
3. Tie-in a Red Fox Squirrel dubbing brush at the hook bend and wrap forward just like chenille in touching turns over the rear 2/3s of the hook shank to form a neat body, then tie it off and remove any excess brush. *(As an alternative to using a dubbing brush, form a dubbing loop at the bend of the hook and dub it with dubbing. Twist the loop closed until it resembles a loose chenille, then wrap it forward over the rear 2/3s of the hook shank, tie it off, and remove any excess loop.)*
4. Select 3-4 peacock herls, trim off the brown base, and tie them in at the front of the body. Now form another dubbing loop at the front of the body and slip the peacock herls into it. Twist the dubbing loop tight and wrap the resulting herl chenille forward to slightly behind the hook eye forming a thorax that is slightly thicker than the body, then tie it off and remove any excess herl. *(Ensure that the herl is wrapped tightly against the front of the body so that there is no gap between the body and the thorax.)*
5. Select a partridge feather with barbs long enough to reach from the hook eye back to slightly past the hook point. Trim off any fluff from the feather and tie it in by the tip the front of the thorax. *(The shiny side of the feather should be facing toward the hook*

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eye.) Make 2-3 wraps of the feather forward to right behind the hook eye, then tie it off. Remove any excess feather

6. Form a neat thread head making sure to wrap the thread slightly back over the feather to ensure that the barbs lay back over the body. Do a whip finish and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the head, if desired.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A DUBBING BRUSH**

There are several ways to make a dubbing brush, which is in effect a dubbing loop using wire instead of thread. Probably the easiest way is to first make a dubbing board from a flat board (average size is 4" wide by 7" long). Drive a nail into one side of the board, centered and close to the edge. On the other side, make two shallow cuts with a razor in the board edge, one directly opposite the nail and the second off to one side. With the board completed, take a section of thin gauge wire (copper is popular but not the only wire used) at least a little more than twice the length of the board and, with one end, take 2-3 turns around the nail, then stretch the wire with light tension across the board and insert it into the slit opposite the nail. You can insert the tag end into the second slit to keep it out of the way, if necessary. Now take sticky dubbing wax and dub the tensioned wire, then apply whatever dubbing that you want and center it along the wire for the length that you wish the dubbing brush to be.

Next take a dubbing spinner and, without lifting the wire (as that may cause the dubbing to come off the wire), loop the wire through the dubbing spinner similarly to the way you would when making a dubbing loop. Then stretch the tag end of the wire, with light tension, back over the first wire and make a few turns around the nail to tie it off. Grasp the dubbing spinner and, pulling both wires taut and pulling the bottom wire free of the slit it was in, begin to spin the dubbing spinner just as you would when doing a dubbing loop. After you have spun the wire enough to ensure that the dubbing will stay in place, lift the wires slightly off the board to simplify the rest of the spinning. Continue spinning the wire until you reach the desired texture that you want. Cut the wire off the nail and remove the other end from the spinner, and now you have a dubbing brush that you can use just like a lightly weighted chenille. You can trim both ends of the dubbing brush to get rid of any excess wire, but remember to leave enough bare wire at both ends to serve as a core for tying the brush to the hook.