

# THE PISMIRE SOFT HACKLE FLY

("3-P SH" - derived from the pheasant, peacock and partridge soft hackle)



## Recipe

Hook ..... Size 12-20 1X short wet fly hook  
Thread ..... 6/0 Danville, orange or brown  
Body ..... A slip of cock pheasant (2-4 barbules)  
                  and 1-3 peacock herls  
Thorax ..... Peacock herl  
Ribbing ..... Copper wire (medium or fine)  
Hackle ..... Partridge soft hackle;

1. Mash down the hook barb and place the hook in the vise. Tie in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap a solid thread base on the hook shank from 2mm behind the hook eye to just over the barb of the hook
2. With the thread over the hook barb, tie in the slip of pheasant tail fibers by the tips and then tie in 2 peacock herls by the tips at the same point.
3. Tie in the copper wire ribbing at the same point as the pheasant and herl fibers, then wrap the thread forward covering slightly more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the hook shank and covering the butt end of the wire, pheasant fibers, and peacock herl to form a smooth underbody. Trim off any excess wire. Now slightly twist the pheasant fibers and peacock herls together and wrap them together to where you left the thread. Tie them off and **trim off the excess pheasant fibers only.**
4. Now reverse wrap the copper wire rib (with a 2mm segmented space between wraps) over the pheasant/herl body and tie it off. Remove any excess wire and let the thread hang.
5. Twist the remaining peacock herls together with the thread into a herl rope and wrap it forward to just behind the hook eye to form a herl thorax. Tie off the herl rope and remove any excess.

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6. Select an appropriately sized partridge soft hackle feather and tie it in at the front of the thorax by the tip. Wrap the hackle 2 times in front of the thorax, then tie it off and remove any excess.
7. Form a small thread head and tie off with 3 half hitches or a whipfinish. Cut the thread and apply head cement.

Note: Fish this wet fly across and down with small strips on the line during the swing. You may also fish upstream and across with or without a strike indicator as your skill level dictates. You may apply floatant and fish this fly dead-drift as a cripple (dry fly). This is an excellent Baetis (Mayfly) imitation in the appropriate size. Expect explosive strikes on the swing and subtle takes on the upstream presentation. The Pismire fly was developed by G.E.M. Skues and dates to the early 1800's in the U.K. but remains very obscure in U.S. fly fishing circles.

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