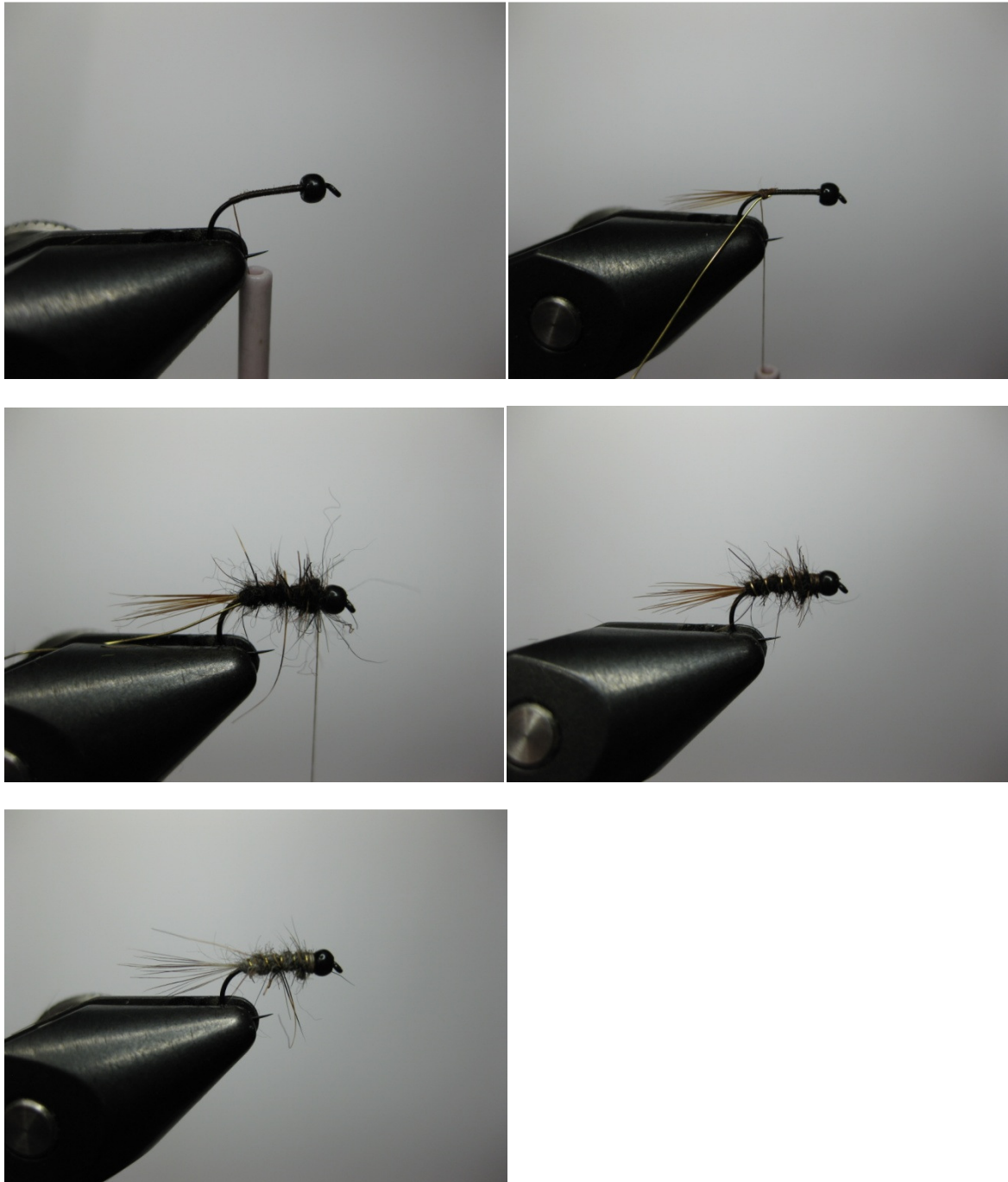


Squirrel Hair Mini-Nymph – June 2011

I suppose this is really my version of the ubiquitous Hares-ear nymph and really easy to tie. I have had great success with this on Yorkshire rivers tied on a No. 17 hook, suspended from a size 16 or 18 grey-olive Klink-hamer . Sometimes they take the Klink but more often than not they look at the Klink and then take the nymph. It has yielded some fine brown trout and grayling and you get the combined enjoyment of watching the dry fly and the effectiveness of the submerged nymph.



Materials

Hook: TMC 103BL size 17

Thread 8.0 brown (or tan for the Grey Natural dubbing)

Body: SLF Dark Brown Squirrel Dubbing. You can also use Grey Natural and Bleached Ginger.

Tails: Pinch of ginger cock hackles (use a pinch of cree or grizzle with the grey natural)

Rib: Fine gold wire

Head: 2.0mm diameter black tungsten bead (FunkyFlyTying.com supply these)

Tying

- 1) Insert the tungsten bead onto the hook.
- 2) Wind thread down body of hook in touching turns to just before the bend.
- 3) Tie in about two inches or so of fine gold wire.
- 4) Tie in the cock hackles, length about 3/4 that of the body
- 5) Dub on the squirrel hair right up to the bead in a fairly thick 'rope'
- 6) Wind on the gold wire in the opposite direction to the thread dubbing. Jiggle it a bit as you wind to avoid compressing the guard hairs in the dubbing as you want a bit of a 'rough' look to the body.
- 7) Tie in the gold wire directly behind the bead and trim.
- 8) Whip finish twice to cover the tie-in point of the gold wire.

On a size 17 hook this is obviously a small nymph, but remarkably effective even for larger fish.

Fishing style is NZ 'Klink and dink'. I suggest a cut-off tapered leader of 3-4lb tip breaking strain, maybe 6ft long, and a suitable size 16 or 18 Klink-hamer tied at the end. Then use 3lb breaking strain or so line, about 18 inches long or a suitable depth for the water, to attach the nymph to the hook-bend of the klink with a simple clinch knot.

Fish upstream, into the bubble lines and creases between fast and slow water, let it track back towards you and wait for that Klink to suddenly disappear!

Many thanks to Steve Rhodes of GoFlyFishingUK for introducing me to 'Klink and dink' on the rivers, it's great fun.

Tight lines

Andy Hood