



Simple Pheasant tail nymph

This is a variation from Davie McPhail of Sawyer's classic pheasant tail. Both are tied with extra fine wire, rather than a thread. The variation makes tying faster and makes tying size 10s and 12s easier.

- Start with the wire just behind the eye, making sure you have about 8-10cm of tag end that will become the rib, and wind back to the start of the bend.
- Take 8-10 pheasant tail fibres and tie them in with one or two wraps of wire. Keep the tail relatively short. I tie it in with one wrap behind the tag end.
- Then wrap the wire with open wraps back up the hook to an eye length behind the eye. Carefully wrap the pheasant tail fibres forward and catch off just behind the eye.
- Start building the thorax with the wire then counter-wrap the tag end forward with about four wraps then catch off. Continue building the thorax so that it is about 1/3 the length of the hook.
- With the wire at the rear of the thorax bring the pheasant tail fibres rearward and gently flatten them out with your thumb nail.
- Place one wrap of wire to hold, then a 2-3 turn whip finish and then gently break off the wire.
- Trim the pheasant tail fibres 2-3mm back from the whip finish to give the appearance of wing buds.
- Varnish the wire thorax, whip finish and you're done.