

COPPER JOHN NYMPH



Recipe

Hook.....size 12-18 TMC 3761 Nymph & wet fly

Bead.....gold bead matched to hook size

Thread.....UTC 70 black

Tail.....brown goose biots

Lead.....0.015 or 0.02 lead free wire

Body.....medium copper wire (smaller gauges for smaller hooks)

Wing Case.....black thin skin

Flash.....medium tinsel – pearl (can sub any light color)

Legs.....Partridge (optional)

1. Thread the bead on the hook with the small hole facing the eye and place the hook in your vise.
2. Add 10-12 wraps of lead wire to the hook and push forward into the bead.
3. Start the thread immediately behind the wire wraps and wrap to the hook bend. Trim excess thread.
4. Select 2 goose biots and orient them so the tips splay outward and are aligned.
5. Measure a tail of $\frac{1}{2}$ the hook shank in length using the biots. Pinch the biots at the desired length with your non-dominant hand.
6. Tie in the biot, ensuring that their orientation does not change. Try a triangle pinch or tie in one biot at a time.
7. Wrap forward a few wraps and snip the excess biots.
8. Form an underbody for the thread by taking wraps between the trimmed biot ends and the lead wire. Ensure this is smooth and even.
9. Ensure your thread is behind the lead wire.

10. Cut at least 6" of copper wire from the spool. Align the tip of the wire behind the lead wraps and tie down. Wrap the thread all the way to the tail and then progress forward toward the bead to form a tapered body.
11. With your thread behind the lead wire, take tight touching wraps of the copper wire forward until you reach 3/4s of the hook shank. Tie off and trim excess.
12. Tie in a piece of pearl flashabou or tinsel in front of the wire directly on top of the hook shank.
13. Cut a piece of thin skin to slightly wider than the flashabou and tie it with the shiny side down at the same point.
14. Tie in one strand of peacock herl with the iridescent fibers facing you at the same time in point.
15. Wrap the peacock herl forward until you reach the bead and tie it off. Trim excess.
16. (Optional step: legs) With a small, mottled hen hackle or partridge feather, exposure the tip by pulling the bottom fibers down away from it. Use fine point scissors to snip the very end of the feathers, leaving a v-shaped feather with a few fibers on both sides.
17. (Optional step: legs) Orient the feather behind the bead, with the tips facing the hooking point. Tie it in, ensuring the feathers land on each side of the body and splay out a touch with thread tension.
18. Pull the thin skin over the top and tie down behind the bead.
19. Pull the flashabou over the thin skin and tie down behind the bead.
20. Snip the thin skin, flashabou, and hackle fibers, if used, close to the bead.
21. Whip finish.
22. Apply a small coat of UV resin or epoxy over the wing case, starting at the copper wraps and working forward to the bead. This is optional but does make a more durable fly.