

Black Pseudo Hackle Nymph

Rob Denson ties a neat fly that should be fished ever-so slowly



ROB DENSON

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NEWFANGLED TYING MATERIALS are thrust upon us with monotonous regularity. Our lives, we are told, will be incomplete and our returns severely compromised if we fail to adorn our flies with the latest VX-X-ray-UV Fritz, dyed in zero gravity, of course, to produce colours never before imagined. In truth, most of these products have been around for years, made originally as spangly trimming for cheerleaders' outfits. Anyway, there ain't no law against it, as I always reply when a fly-tying novice asks "Can you use dog hair?" If you can strap it to a hook, and cast it once you've done so, then give it a go. If it pleases you, you're halfway there.

I am told Pseudo Hackle is an exception to the above rule and was developed specifically for tying. It's not the first time I've read that on marketing blurb, though, and it's not the first time they've seen me coming. Either way, it's a good seven years or more since I first came across it, and although I can't say it's revolutionised my tying habits or increased my returns exponentially, it has formed the basis of a neat little pattern that has earned some space in my fly-box, and remained there.

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The Black Pseudo Hackle nymph has been steadily catching me good numbers of trout for around six years. It's one of those flies that practically tied itself: a black nymphy affair was the plan, so I stuck a black tail on it and wound the Pseudo Hackle up the shank. Hey presto! Nothing much more was needed, and it did indeed catch fish. The version you see here has been knocked back and forth a couple of times between myself and Matt Eastham, with the basic nymph picking up jungle cock and gold Ice Dub embellishments along the way. It may now be taking a liberty to call it a nymph, but if nothing else, it gives a clue as to how it should be fished - slowly.

Nymphing is a leisurely pastime, and is largely all about letting the fish get a good look at your offering, as they do with natural food items. That means a dead-drift, or a painfully slow figure of eight, with the occasional draw thrown in to impart the rise-and-fall motion that mimics the behaviour of buzzers. The fastest retrieve when nymphing is a medium-to-fast figure of eight. Your nymphs may still catch at greater speeds, but you aren't really nymphing. Fact, not purism - think about it.

Interestingly, although the fish get a damn good butcher's at our flies when nymphing, close-copy imitative patterns with ultra-realistic anatomical detail are about as important as matching the brand and colour of your boots and trousers. Trout want to eat your offerings, and by and large, apply the duck test to a potential meal (If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck.). The Black Pseudo Hackle nymph passes that test. **T&S**



Hook Size 10-14 Fulling Mill 31531 Black Competition Heavyweight
Tail Black cock hackle **Body** Black Pseudo Hackle **Cheeks** Jungle cock
Head Gold Ice Dub **Thread** Black

TYING TIPS

- Pseudo Hackle looks like a ladder - cut the ladder down the middle, or off-centre, to achieve the desired hackle length.
- Treat it exactly like hackle - expose a little of the "stalk", tie in tightly and wind up the shank. Trim again if required.
- Vary the proximity of the turns to achieve the effect that you want.
- Try Pseudo Hackle on Snatchers too, and bushy wet-flies.