

# SPARKLE HARE'S EAR

*Rob Denson ties two highly suggestive nymphs*

**M**AY IS ONE of my favourite fishing months. We are now – or at least should be – experiencing that all-important transition from late spring to early summer. Things are warming up, and so is the fishing. Trout are experiencing a transition, too. As the water warms, and with it the trout's core temperature, and metabolic rate, it will be compelled to eat, more and more, to balance the books. Wild fish know where, when and what to look for. Freshly stocked fish will need a period of adjustment, and contrary to what any wild/brown trout "specialist" may have you believe, it's a very short one, and nothing to do with "brains". It's simply to do with waking up to the fact that dinner no longer comes in pellet form, from above, at noon each day. The freshly stocked trout now has to be proactive, rather than reactive, and that means observation. The penny drops in a matter of days, and a freshly stocked rainbow will soon be picking out nymphs and corixa as confidently and efficiently as a wild, mature brown. Trout react too, and are a product of their environment, and feeding, by and large, is an instinct, not the result of a prolonged "education".

With the warming of the weather, water and core temperature of the trout, their ability and eagerness to search for a passing meal greatly increases. Here then are two lightly dressed nymphs that suit my springtime clothes, and more importantly, suit perfectly the needs of springtime trout, old, young, wild and stocked. Subsurface fauna are in transition, too; on the move and on the change, and slowly but surely coming to the attention of hungry fish. Both nymphs are examples of a simple theme, which, with few materials, plus a little thought and care, can cover a great deal of your nymphy needs for the bulk of the season. It's another case of a suggestive blank canvas on to which the trout will project its fondest desires. Buzzers, shrimp and lice will be covered from the off, followed by ephemeral nymphs, damselfly, sedge pupae and pinfry. In many waters, several of those species will be present at the same time, as their life-cycles overlap – a great time to fish patterns like these.

To get the best from this style of nymph, we need to fish them slowly; sometimes painfully slow, or static. The behaviour of the flies, especially when imitation



**Hook** Sizes 10-16 Kamasan B170 or B175 **Tail** Cock hackle or duck flank  
**Rib** Gold wire, (oval for larger dressings) **Body** Hare's ear/mask, grey squirrel, plus a pinch of pearl Ice Dub or Gold Lite-Brite or combinations thereof  
**Throat hackle** (for Diawl-style version) Cock hackle or duck flank  
**Thread** Olive, brown or tan UTC70



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or suggestion of natural food is concerned, is vitally important; as much a part of the deception, if not more so, than the dressing. As a rule of thumb, with most flies, the sparser the dressing the slower it should be fished. For this reason I tend to fish Diawl-style nymphs when a figure-of-eight retrieve is needed, and slimmer, no-hackle nymphs (and Buzzers) static.

Both styles can be happily mixed on a cast of three, though, and retrieve speed and fly selection fine-tuned according to results. If the fish are on the fin and on the feed, then three nymphs of this style are hard to beat. I prefer a floating line for static nymphing, allowing the flies to sink to practically any given depth, and giving a vertical presentation. Once we introduce a little more movement and pace into the retrieve, then intermediate lines of varying sink rates facilitate a more horizontal presentation.

I've tied and fished nymphs in this style for as long as I can remember and, almost 30 years on, I find them as productive and as confidence-inspiring as ever. Use the two nymphs featured here as a rough guide and have fun with the template. I know you'll have fun fishing them. **T&S**



The Diawl version, for when a faster retrieve is needed.

## TYING TIPS

- Keep dressings lean, but rough them up with velcro for a buggy, lively look – loose hair and fur moves, and suggests legs and appendages.
- Vary the fur and hair shades: try darker shades at the head and thorax.
- Try different colours of cock hackle for the tail and throat. Cock hackle often has good translucency, and creates a very tempting and natural glow. Try olive, ginger, brown, cree, furnace/Greenwell's, badger, yellow and orange. Barred feathers such as bronze mallard, mandarin, gadwall and teal also make excellent tails/throats.
- Keep the sparkle in the dubbing sparse – a little goes a long way.