

Red-and-Gold Diawl

Try this pulsing nymph on the middle dropper, suggests **Rob Denson**



Hook Size 10-14 Kamasan B170 or 175 **Tail** Ginger cock
Rib Red holographic
Body Squirrel and hare's ear, mixed 50:50 with a pinch of gold Ice Dub **Throat** Ginger cock **Thread** Red

TYING TIPS

■ A simple fly to tie, but some people come unstuck with the throat hackle. Turning the hook upside down helps. Placing a turn of thread behind the bunch can help to "cock" the throat at 45 degrees, giving it the perfect finish.

■ Keep the fly on the lean side – fat-bodied Diawls are no good.



ROB DENSON

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ONE THING I LEARNED EARLY in my fly-fishing journey is that it pays to keep nymphs simple. Anyone with a modicum of reading and fishing experience knows that a trout will take sparsely dubbed navel-fluff

as a nymph, yet close-copy specialists with their penchant for anatomical pedantry seem hell-bent on creating virtual bait. So much for subtle deception.

One attempt at weaving nymphs with space-age plastics was enough for me – two or three cheap and cheerful materials and a killer colour combination are always the best policy.

Here is a devilishly good nymph. I'm afraid I can't furnish you with details of its origin. I'll just call it the Red-and-Gold Diawl. If anyone knows different, speak now or forever hold your peace.

One thing I noticed immediately about the Red-and-Gold was its dropper versatility, especially its efficacy in the middle. I love a team player that can fit in anywhere and get results without upsetting the team dynamic. Nymphs aren't as sensitive to dropper position as wet-flies because we generally fish them in different ways. Nymphs (including Buzzers) should be fished static or very slow. Yes, you will catch fish on nymphs at any speed, but if you

want your flies to appeal to fish actively feeding on, or that you suspect have a propensity for, nymphs, you need to calm things down. Usually the best policy is no retrieve at all. Simply take up the slack as the flies drift, ready to react to any suspicious movement of the line on the water.

Movement of the flies is provided by various means: the surface drift of a floating line, subsurface microcurrents, and sinking. If dead-drift doesn't get any interest, a slow figure-of-eight will often get the desired reaction. Having no slack between you and the flies means that you hit the fish almost as soon as the rod is lifted. Slack line costs vital split-seconds. If your hand-eye coordination is not good, or you miss that subtle twitch of the line, then keeping in touch with the flies is your back-up policy, and gives you a good chance of achieving a lock-up as the fish swims off.

The Red-and-Gold, like all flies on this page, is wonderfully vague. A touch of red always goes down well with nymph-feeders, suggesting blood being pumped around an insect's translucent body as it swims or just prior to eclosion. The spiky hare's-ear-and-squirrel mix lends a nice buggy feel with tones suggesting anything from shrimp to buzzer to hog-louse or even fry. 