

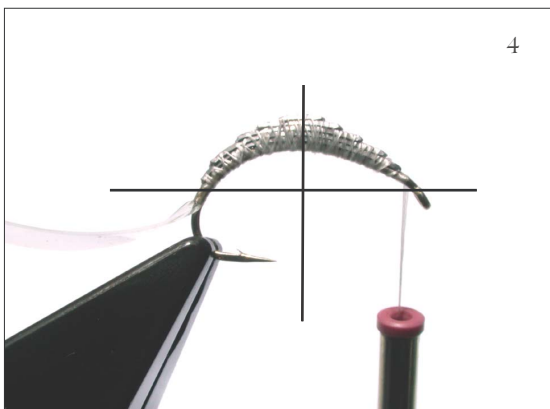
STEP 1 - Nip the hook in the vice and tie on. This is a # 10. Wind the thread in touching turns down the hook shank until you reach a position just short of the middle of the gape. Cut a 2mm x 14 cm strip of clear Flexi-skin. Now snip a 25% angle to the end. Using the very tip press it against the side of the shank with your thumb nail and tie in with medium tension turns. Dont wrap to hard or you will cut through the Flexi-Skin. Wind up to the middle of the gape. Then come back 1 wrap and now you can increase the tension on top of your previous wraps and make touching turns back towards the hook eye. Test the Flexi-skin is secure as your not going to be able to tie it in again if it snaps off later.



STEP 2 + 3 + 4 - Cut a strip of self adhesive lead sheet to the same diamiter as the hook shank. Tack it to the top about 1 mm from the hook eye and with bobin weight turns trap the lead on top of the shank. Stop 1 mm from the flexi-Skin and pull the thread to cut the lead strip. Keep applying layers of lead strip, each time shortening the layer by 1mm. Try to aim for the last layer to lay opposite the barb or in the middle of the original imaginary line. See crossed lines on photograph 4.

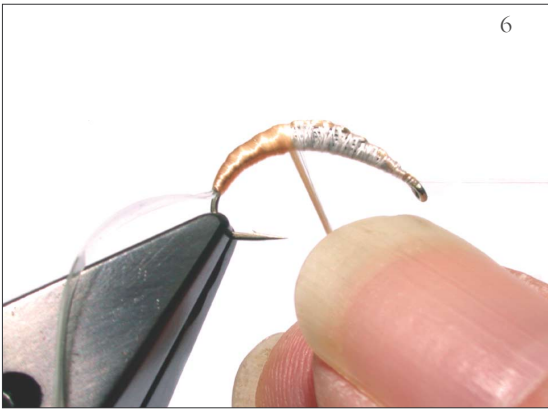


TYING TIP - If you like extra weight, slip on a 2 mm black tungsten bead before you nip the hook in the vice. Secure this bead exactly where the thread is now hanging in step 3. Tie as illustrated but lead up to the back of the bead and wind round lead wire in front of the bead. If you are tying the Ammonite on a # 8 hook slip on a 2 mm then a 3 mm tungsten bead behind it. Keep the back of the 3 mm bead in the same spot where the thread is hanging in step 3. The two different sizes help with the thorax taper. For smaller sizes I find there is no room for a tungsten bead unless someone makes a 1 mm bead.





STEP 5 - Cut a 10 inch length of Ammonite Yarn and tie it in so it lays on top of the lead. Tie it into where the Flexi-Skin is.



STEP 6 - Now wrap your thread back to the hook eye, half hitch and hang out of the way.



STEP 7 - Wrap the Ammonite yarn in touching turns back to the top of the lead then back half way down , then back to the hook eye. Remember to keep the yarn flat at all times. Now tie in the yarn and wind the thread back to the top of the lead. Now wind back to the Hook eye, half hitch and hang out of the way. The thread wraps you have made from the top of the lead to the hook eye is the thorax area. Now using the back of your thumb nail burnish out any lumps in the taper. *If you have any that is !!*



STEP 8 - Take the Flexi-Skin and pull as much as you dare for the 1st wrap. The 2nd wrap will bite onto the 1st, then let the Flexi-skin slip through your fingers as you wrap it up to the top of the lead. Expose 50% of the previous wraps. When you get to the top, start to stretch it as you wind over the thorax area. Tie the Flexi-Skin off just before the hook eye.



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STEP 9 + 10 - Next, cut a new strip of flexi-skin 4mm wide and lay this across the start of the thorax, make 2 loose pinch and loop turns then tighten with the 3rd. It will fold equally either side of the thorax. Tie in the loose end and let the bobbin hang at the hook eye. Folding over the flexi-skin will give you a good idea if you've set it correctly'. Take a Partridge neck feather which matches the underbody colour, *Natural in this case*, nip the tip between some tweezers, and with a wetted thumb and index finger stroke the fibres back leaving a little tip of feather to tie in. (*see page 109*) Tie this tip in at the start of the thorax, dull side up so that it curves upwards.



10



11

STEP 11 - Next, Splice your thread and trap in the middle a line if dubbing. Close the loop, keeping it under tension and spin the bobbin to make a strong translucent dubbing rope. Wind this with touching turns to the hook eye.



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STEP 12 - Lay a thin line of glue along the top of the dubbed thorax and gently pull the Partridge feather over so the feather splays out either side. Part the feather at the back of the hook eye, find the gap, and tie in 2-3 loose turns and tighten. Snip off the loose end and secure with 2 more wraps.



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STEP 13 - Lay another thin line of glue along the quill, then pull over the flexi-skin thorax cover. With wetted thumb and index finger splay the partridge feathers down either side as you pull the thorax cover, stretching it over the hook eye. Take the bobbin and pass it over 2-3 times, then tighten as you stretch. This will set the thorax cover. Once in position wrap the thread 2-3 times again and tighten, do this a couple of times with a spot of glue to secure it. Trim off the loose end, then tie in a nice whip finish and snip off your thread.



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STEP 14 + 15 - Now the fun part. Relax and make yourself comfortable, you only get one go at this. It's not difficult, you've just got to be confident. Start by carefully colouring in the thorax cover with the permanent marker pen. I use a rotary vice which helps me get the right angle. Now you've coloured it in you'll see the nymph coming to life. Next, with the broad nib, angle it so that it is flat against the side of the abdomen, don't touch it yet. Now, make a couple of imaginary strokes across the side to the end. This should be one fluid movement. Once you feel comfortable with it, breath in and stroke it with the flat marker pen. Remember one fluid stroke. Being broad it will miss the recesses creating a great segmentation. Turn it over and do the same on the other side. A couple of strokes along the top and you've done it.



15



16

STEP 16 - Finally snip out a flat section underneath the thorax. I find it has a better shape to it when it's wet. You've now made the best searching nymph you will ever need. *See next page.* The Ammonite nymph. Now go bend your rod.



The Ammonite Nymph. This pattern must be my savior. When ever or what ever river I go to fish, I tend to tie on at least 2 of these 'even before I look at the water'. If you look at page 102 you will see why. This photograph show a selection of common river insects. I have placed an Ammonite Nymph amongst them just to show how this generic pattern matches any hatch. I designed this pattern a few years ago and it is amazing how many people come up to me at shows and tell me how successful it has been for them. These people come from all over the world, New Zealand, Russia, Japan, USA, Canada and Europe. A nymph for all waters.

I tie them up to size 8 for fast rivers, usually with a 2 mm and 3 mm Tungsten beads under the thorax. Size 10 with one 2 mm bead and 12 - 16's without. The smaller the size the slower the current. The colour tan is my favourite, however you can change the colour by changing the colour of the floss underbody.

Use it as a serching pattern. Cast into all the likly fish spots and keep moving, cast here, cast there. You will soon find a fish.

HOOK - Kamasan B100 # 8 - 16. THREAD - Dyneema. ABDOMEN - Flexi-Skin. UNDERBODY - VN Self Adh..... Lead Sheet and Tungsten beads. THORAX- Flexi-Skin. LEGS - Partridge Hackle. DUBBING - Soft Rabbit, colour to match the under body colour. GLUE - Hard as Nails. UNDERBODY FLOSS - Ammonite yarn or any Golden honey tan coloured flat floss.



The Ammonite Nymph # 8 - 16