

# RED FOX SQUIRREL

The first fur nymph that Dave Whitlock ever tied was the Red Fox Squirrel. That was 30 years ago, and, today, if he had only one nymph to fish, this would be the one! Squirrel has short, soft, dense, light-colored underfur and short, fine-textured, darkly barred guard hairs. This makes for a very striking combination.

The "Squirrel", as it is sometimes referred to, is considered one of the most suggestive patterns of the day. Vary the hook size (6 to 18) and the hook style (extra short to extra long shank), and you can create an illusion of almost anything. If you like, try some in different colors; squirrel is available on the skin or packaged in natural and several dyed colors. Omit tying legs on the smaller sizes and pick out the guard hairs to simulate legs, gills, etc. Vary the weight to accommodate your needs. The Red Fox Squirrel is an enjoyable nymph to tie and offers another perception to suggestive imitation. (*Tying Nymphs by Randall Kaufmann, Western Fisherman's Press, 1994*)

Hook:	Daiichi 1550, Tiemco 5262 or 5263
Thread:	Black
Tail:	Squirrel or Hare's Mask guard hairs
Rib:	Fine oval gold tinsel
Abdomen:	Red fox squirrel body blended with like color Antron dubbing
Thorax:	Red fox squirrel body blended with charcoal and brown Antron dubbing
Legs:	Mottled brown hen hackle, tied full

## Tying Instructions:

1. Weight forward half of hook
2. Tie in clump of squirrel or hare's mask guard hairs for tail. Tie in gold tinsel.
3. Dub abdomen. Abdomen should occupy about 60 percent of hook shank.
4. Wrap rib through abdomen. Tie off and position thread where thorax will begin.
5. Dub thorax about twice the diameter of the abdomen. Leave vacant space between front of thorax and hook eye.
6. Tie in hen hackle by tip and wrap 1½ to 2 times, stoking feathers back after each turn.
7. Tie off head and whip finish.

