

## Lesson 2

# RED FOX SQUIRREL



**Hook:** Tiemco TMC 5262  
size 4-16

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail:** Hair from squirrel back

**Rib:** Gold tinsel

**Abdomen:** Red fox squirrel  
belly with antron

**Thorax:** Squirrel back with  
antron picked out.

### OPTIONS

This fly can be tied with a soft hackle collar in larger sizes. The fly can also be tied with a bead head for added weight and gold or copper wire can be used for the rib.

### GOALS

1. Learn to use the pinch method for tying in material.
2. Learn proportions for larger bugs.
3. Continue developing your dubbing skills.

The Red Fox Squirrel Nymph adds a tremendous fish catching fly to your arsenal while furthering your fly tying skills. It's not only another great fish catching fly, but it is an effective imitation of the Golden Stone fly. It also represents general impressions of caddis and may flies when tied in different sizes. A good reason to tie any stone fly imitation: streams rich in stone fly populations usually contain very large trout.

The stone fly is found in the fast water sections of trout streams, the same as caddis. The Golden Stone is a larger insect, and it takes a year or two for it to grow to its adult stage. Trout see this fly all year long in different sizes. It lives near rocks and the gravel bottom of the stream. The larger size of the nymph makes it a favored morsel for trout! Fishing it in the same place you find caddis flies gives this fly great versatility because it doubles as a stone fly or caddis imitation.

This fly extends what you previously learned with the Caddis Larva. Now you'll learn to attach a tail and use tensile for ribbing, and continue to use the same proportions learned on the Caddis Larva. By simply substituting rabbit fur on this fly you will be able to tie the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph, too. This is a great fly to have in good supply in small through large sizes.

There are different ways to locate stone flies. They crawl on top of stream rocks or crawl to shore and looking in both places can help you identify them as an active source of food trout are keyed into. If there aren't any insects showing and trout aren't feeding, check the rocks and bottom gravel of the stream just like you did for caddis larvae. Match the fly size and fish it with same nymph techniques used for the Caddis larva.



1. Debarb the hook, start the thread at the eye and build a thread base stopping at the bend of the hook.



2. Cut off a small amount of body hair from the back of the squirrel hide and clean out the underfur. The length of the tail should be equal to the gap of the hook. Hold the material above the tie-in point. Bring the thread up and around the material, between your fingers, and then back down around the shank of the hook and slowly pull up. This should secure the tail to the top of the hook. Make 3 or 4 more wraps keeping the thread under tension at all times. Wrap forward to tie down the ends.



3. Tie in the rib. You can use the pinch method to do this, wrap back to a point above the barb. Trim the butt end.



4. Dub a tapered body 2/3 of the way up the hook shank.



5. Wrap the rib forward 2/3 of the way up the shank in about 3 to 5 evenly spaced turns. Tie off and trim the end.



6. Dub a thorax somewhat larger than the abdomen, leaving room for a head. Make a small head, whip finish and pick out the thorax to represent the legs.