

SMUGGLER NYMPH

By Stelios Comninou

A while ago, I found a video tutorial that describes how to tie this fly (called the Tungsten Smuggler Nymph) – and I made a variation of this in olive –but using a normal nymph hook. See this [video](#). This is a snip from the video showing how the fly looks



I once tied my variant of this fly and came up with this one – I used it in the Umzimkulu once and it caught a number of trout – as you can see, it is a bit chewed up



I then tied another version of it, kind of trying to imitate a red eyed damsel – but I think it's a bit too heavily tied – the body is a bit fat and the tail to thick



So I tied it again – a bit slimmer and added some bling to the tail – but the body is not well tapered (I have not fished this fly yet)



So, last night I thought I would tie a black and orange one that may be more attractive to yellow fish - using an orange bead and cinnamon dubbing as the hot spots, back nymph back skin – and black CDC legs for movement which gives the nymph a unique look that really moves and swims in the water.

So here goes..... these are the materials I used:

Hook: 2457 #12 Caddis Pupae and shrimp down eye

Thread: UTC Ultra Thread 70 black

Bead: Fluorescent orange brass bead 7/64"

Tail: "Pretend" guinea fowl feather from the local Chinese shop (If I had Coq de Leon I would rather have used that)

Back: Black stretchy nymph skin

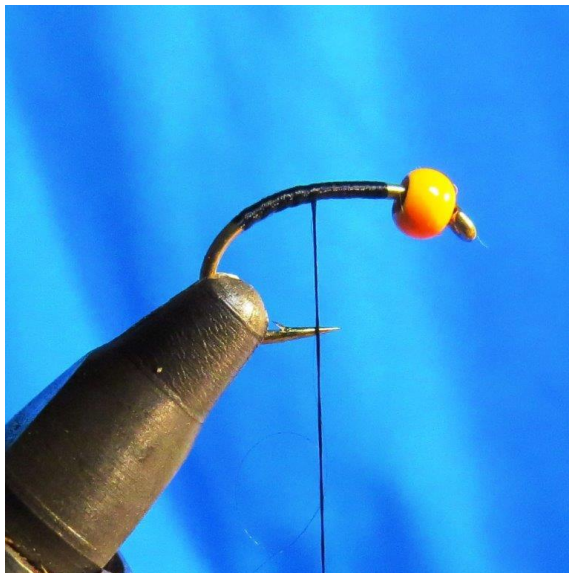
Ribbing: Fine silver wire (you could use mono tippet material as well)

Dubbing: Hairline Cinnamon caddis (just to create additional tone contrast with the orange bead)

Legs: Black CDC feather

(I am sure that this fly can be tied in different colours – for example, using a fluorescent green bead, olive nymph back skin, olive dubbing, and olive CDC)

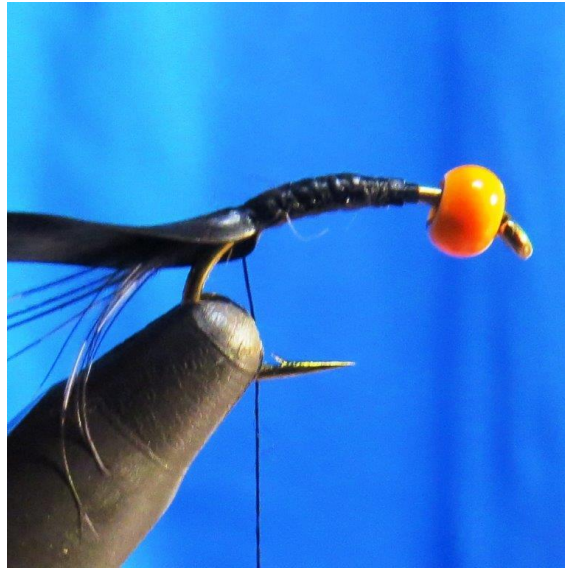
STEP 1: Start the thread behind the bead and wrap up to the bend in line with the hook barb



STEP 2: Take a few barbs of the guinea fowl feather (better if you have coq de leon – which I don't have!) and make a tail about the length of the shank - tying it down to right above the hook barb – and trim the excess



STEP 3: Take the nymph back material and lay it down on top of the shank. Starting from the 1/3 mark from the eye, tie the nymph back material down (which should fold itself nicely covering the shank) and stop at the start of the tail. Take your thread back to the 1/3 mark



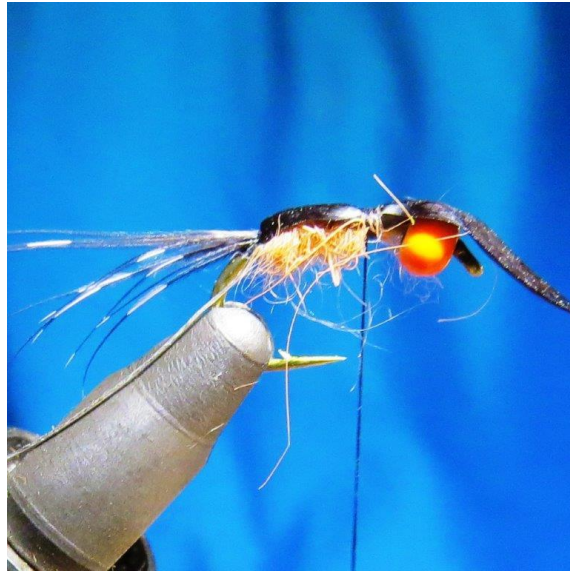
STEP 4: Tie in the silver wire ribbing (you can use fine mono or tippet for this instead)



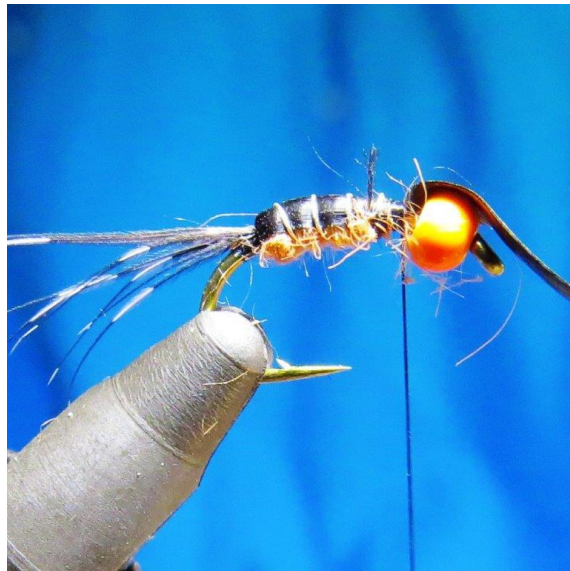
STEP 5: Using a thin noodle, finely dub the body up to the 1/3 mark. It will look a bit buggy at this stage, but the dubbing will flatten out in the next steps - and, later, you can trim the excess hairs sticking out



STEP 6: Lay the skin over the dubbed body and tie it down at the 1/3 mark – don't trim the excess!



STEP 7: Wrap the ribbing evenly over the body and tie down at the 1/3 mark



STEP 8: Pull the skin material back towards the hook gape and tie it down over the tie off point of the ribbing



STEP 9: Take some more dubbing (a little thicker noodle this time) and wrap a ball of dubbing over the tie in point. Then force the bead back with your fingernail as far as you can to create enough space between the eye and the bead, take the thread over the bead and on to the hook at the eye, and jam the bead in place with a thread dam in front. Make sure that you have a bit of space left between the eye and the bead. Take a bit more dubbing and wrap it in front of the bead up to the eye



STEP 10: Now tie in some legs using CDC as follows. Cut off the tip off the CDC feather and stroke back some of the fibres and lay the stem down over the centre of the bead and tie it down just behind the eye



STEP 11: Then, by pulling the stem of the feather, slide the feather back from the eye side until the stem is just on the bead. You will be left with two clumps of barbs of CDC more or less equal on either side of the bead. Pull the skin material forward over the bead parting the CDC fibres, and tie down the skin at the eye. Make sure it is secure.



STEP 12

Trim the skin and CDC feather as close as possible, make the head with a few turns of the thread, and finish off the fly head with a whip finish. If you want, you can trim the legs - I thought that the longer the legs, the more movement. CDC especially has nice movement in the water and I am sure that is a good attractant

