

# Canterbury Fly Fishing Club

## Tip and Tie Sessions : Variants add the spice ...

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Notes on some members' favourite fly patterns, how to tie them and tips on how to use them.<sup>1</sup>

### Dave's Orange Nymph (a Partridge and Orange variant)

This is a highly useful and versatile Kiwi variant: a nymph pattern based on a traditional British wet fly. Named for Dave Grimwood this nymph came prominently to the attention of CFFC members after Dave's runaway success on a one-fly only club day on a South Island High Country lake. It has since become '*World Famous in Canterbury*'. The original Partridge and Orange wet fly is of the soft hackle type and used for both trout and grayling. It is much favoured in Yorkshire as well as in Scotland where it is usually tied very sparsely in the so-called 'Clyde Style'.

**Hook:** size 12-16 wet fly e.g. Kamasan B405 Trout Sub-surface with 14 generally the most useful size **Thread** : Olive, Red, Black depending on weighting  
**Tail** : Golden Pheasant Tippet **Rib** : Fine copper wire **Body** : Orange floss abdomen, with dark fur as thorax; underbody of lead wire for weighted patterns  
**Hackle** : Brown (natural) English Partridge

**Tying Tips:** The pattern may be used unweighted, lightly weighted or heavily weighted depending on conditions, where fish are likely to be in the water column and thus the method of presentation. Colour the head of the fly, using different tying silks, to denote the type of weighting. For example: red for unweighted, olive for lightly weighted and black for more heavily weighted. Can also be tied as a bead head pattern. When winding the floss silk body, use a bobbin holder to hold the floss. This helps prevent fraying. If winding a partridge hackle should prove too tricky, try cutting a 'V' shape out of the tip and tying in the hackle stalk on top of the hook. Stroke the hackle downward so deploying the fibres on either side of the thorax.

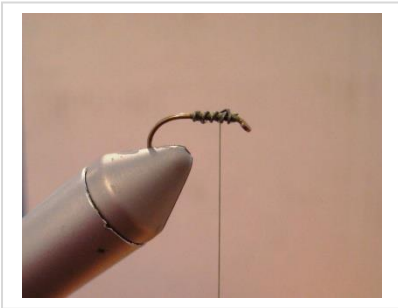
**Where, when and how to fish:** Dave's orange nymph is a very effective, general, 'impressionistic' year-round pattern on both rivers and lakes. It provides a useful imitation of a midge pupa - where the orange floss body possibly simulates the infusion of blood usual when pupae are close to 'hatching' and the tippet tail may simulate the pupal shuck. It is also an effective general mayfly nymph pattern. For both midge and mayfly applications it is often fished 'dry-dropper' style. Can be fished as the tail fly in a team, or in tandem behind a damsel or dragonfly nymph. Good also fished blind when retrieved behind a woolly bugger.

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<sup>1</sup> Acknowledgement: This approach to fly tying sequences with background notes and hints on usage was heavily influenced by a series of booklets entitled "Flies for All Seasons" published by "Trout and Salmon" a UK based magazine.

## Dave's Orange Nymph : Tying Sequence



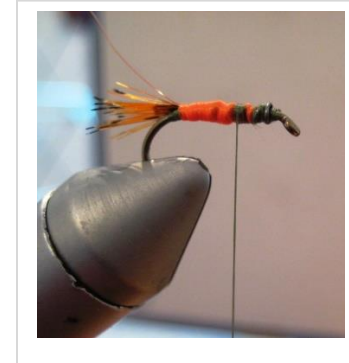
For a weighted version tie in some turns of medium lead wire.



Tear/cut off some fibres of Golden Pheasant tippet and tie in at the hook bend as a tail.



Using the orange floss tie in a 50 mm length of fine copper wire rib.



Then wind on the floss 'abdomen'.



Wax the tying thread using a good quality fly-tier's wax. Dub the thread with the dark fur. (Shown here is hare body fur.)



Wind on the dubbed thread to form the thorax.



Tie in a small brown partridge feather by its stalk.



Grip the hackle tip in hackle pliers and wind on a few turns.





Wind thread back through the hackle to tie it down. Form a neat head, whip finish and varnish.



The finished fly.

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