



Tying the LBF

Fly design: Pat Schelle

Photos: Doug Haacke

Materials (size accordingly):

Nymph hook (sizes 16 - 22)

8/0 or smaller black thread

Black squirrel dubbing

Black saddle hackle fibers

Pearl flash tinsel

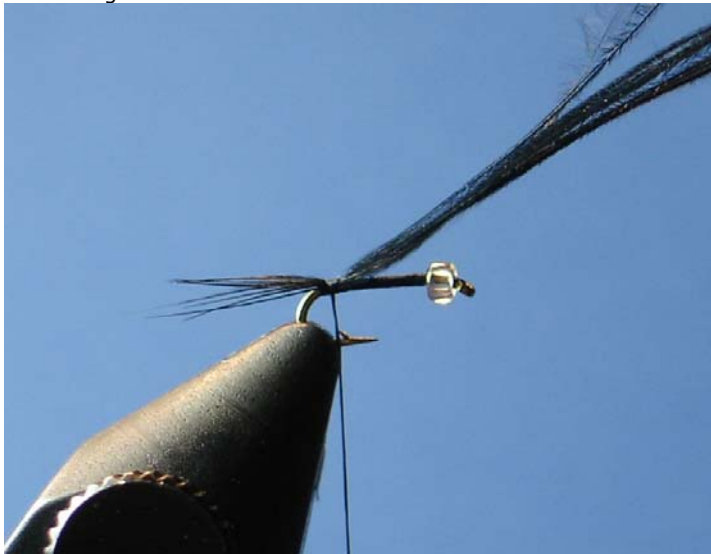
Very fine silver or gold wire

Small clear, silver or pearl bead

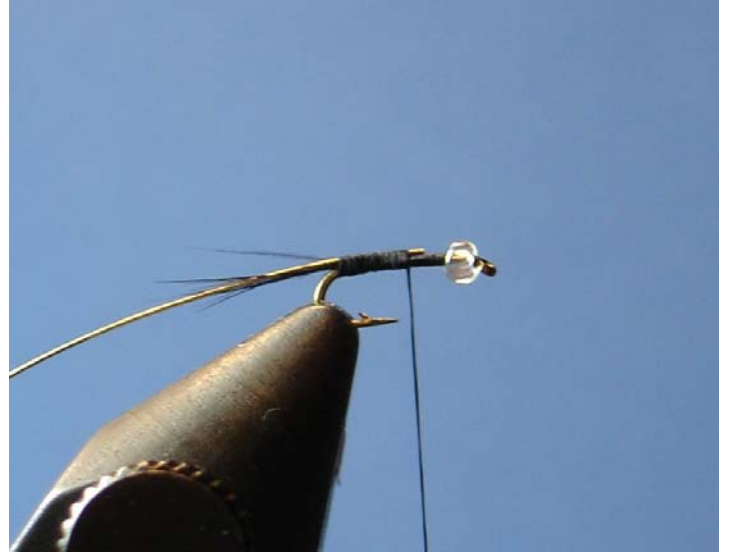
Start with a standard thread base just behind the bead.



Tie in some fibers of black saddle hackle for the tail. Tail should be no longer than the hook shank.



Trim off the excess fibers, and tie in the wire. Add a drop of thin cement to secure the tie in point.



Wrap the wire evenly up the hook to just behind the bead. Secure the wire down with a few extra wraps and trim. Tie in a strip of pearl flash tinsel.



Dub the thread with a very, very small amount of dubbing, and dub the area just behind the bead. Pull the tinsel over the top of the dubbing and tie off behind the bead. Whip finish.



It's very easy to over dub the LBF. Use some fine tip scissors to remove excess dubbing, if necessary.



Notes:

This is a very easy fly to tie, even in the smaller sizes. It is important not to bulk up this fly by adding too much dubbing.

The LBF is commonly used to imitate a midge nymph, although when tied with the appropriate colors also imitates a Baetis and BWO nymph. Experiments with green translucent beads have been successful.

Without weight, it will often float in the surface if no bead or a light bead is used. It is most commonly fished near the bottom behind a split shot, and is also a great dropper fly.

It is deadly on spring creeks like Big Spring Creek, Nelson's, Armstrong's and Depuy's; and tailwaters like the Bighorn and Henry's Fork. Trout will often hit this to the exclusion of all other flies. A good friend, Glen McCloud, showed me how to fish it properly one day on Big Spring Creek in Lewistown. He happily landed several dozen fine trout one afternoon while I stubbornly tried everything *except* an LBF. I nearly got skunked until he loaned me a few, and made me a true believer in the LBF.