

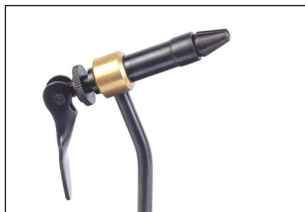
Tying the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear



The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear is a legendary fly used as an imitation of many different insects. While it isn't a perfect match for any one insect, it is used as a 'pretty good' match for many. It can imitate a stonefly or mayfly depending on the size that you use.

Once you have mastered this fly, you will understand the components and techniques for almost all nymph (or larval) patterns.

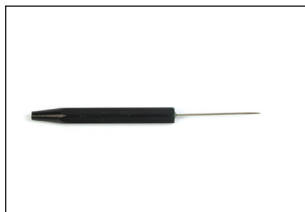
Tools



Vise



Scissors



Dubbing needle



Bobbin



Dubbing wax

Materials



Hooks (Size #8 or #10 nymph hook)



Thread: dark brown (6/0)



Rib: fine gold wire



Wingcase: mottled turkey feather



Tail, abdomen, and thorax: natural hare's mask dubbing



Head cement or clear nail polish



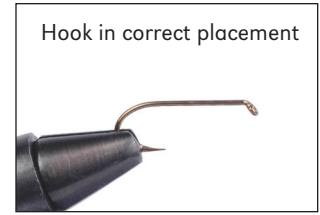
MinnAqua is the statewide angling and aquatic education program of the Minnesota DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

This is a step-by-step approach to tying the golden ribbed hare's ear. The skills that will be focused on will be wrapping, tying in materials, applying dubbing, and finishing the fly.

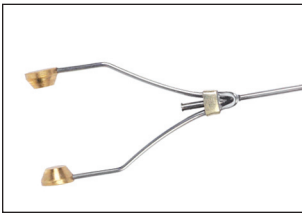
1. Securing the Hook into Vice

Inserting the hook into the vice is the first step in tying the fly. When inserting the hook, it is important to keep these things in mind:

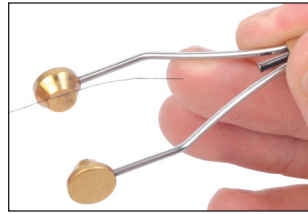
- The shank of the hook is level
- The hook is inserted the right depth into the vice
- The vice is attached at the right location (lower bend) on the hook



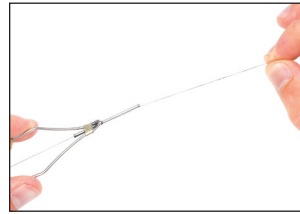
2. Setting up the Bobbin and Thread



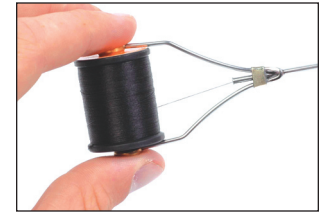
The bobbin is the fundamental wrapping tool in any fly tying. Before tying can begin, you must guide the thread from the spool through the bobbin.



Peel off approximately 5 inches of thread from the spool. Insert the end of the thread into the tube on the bobbin. Push the thread through and pull out at



least 5 inches past the end to ensure it doesn't back out. Some people use an extra tool called a threader to help guide the line through the tube. Pull the thread tight.

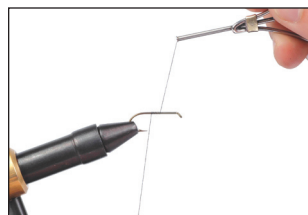


Insert the spool of thread into the bobbin, making sure the open line does not fall back through the tube. Pull the thread tight.

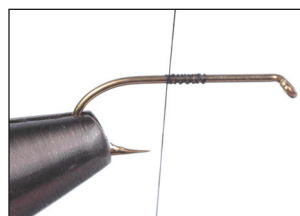
3. Starting the Thread onto the Hook



After the hook is secure in the vice and your thread is on the bobbin, the next step is to start wrapping the thread onto the hook. Hold the loose end of the thread against the hook shank with your left hand.



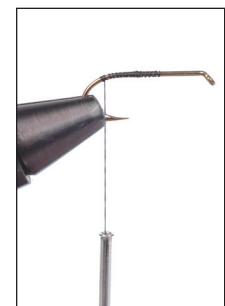
Wrap the thread over the hook and around the shank toward the eye. The correct technique is to wrap the thread away from you going over the hook and then toward you coming underneath it. Do this at least five times.



Next wrap the thread back toward the barb over the previous wraps. After the thread is secure, trim the free end of the thread near the barb.



Continue to wrap the bobbin and thread toward the rear of the hook until the thread is slightly down the bend. If you let go of the bobbin it will hang near the barb of the hook.



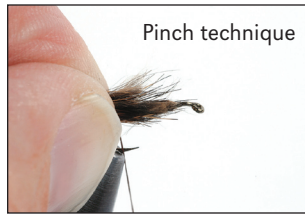
4. Tying the Tail



Select some guard hairs from the outer edges of the hare's mask to be used as tailing material. Cut the group of hairs as close to the skin as you can. The amount of hair needed will vary depending on the size hook used but about half the width of a pencil will be enough. Now carefully remove the fluff from the guard hairs. Save the fluff to be used later.



Place the guard hairs along the shank of the hook with the free ends at the bend of the hook. Pinch the hairs near the eye of the hook. This is the amount of guard hairs that will make up the tail of the fly. Move your hand and the hairs to the back of the hook where your bobbin is hanging.



The next step is to tie in the guard hairs using the pinch technique. With your thumb and forefinger pinching the hair against the hook shank, wrap the thread around the hook and inside of your thumb and forefinger. This wrap should be loose when going around the hook and then the thread should be pulled



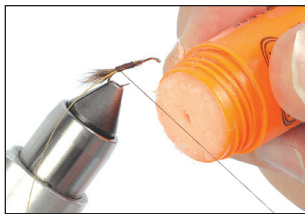
tight. Continue wrapping forward to secure the hair to the hook. Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook.

5. Placing Ribbing



Tie in a 6 inch piece of fine gold wire by holding it along side the hook with the extra to the rear of the fly. Wrap forward to the mid-point of the hook and then wrap back to the bend.

6. Applying Abdomen Dubbing



Apply the dubbing by holding about 4 inches of thread out from the fly. Now apply a thin coat of dubbing wax to the thread, this will help you to get the dubbing to adhere to the thread.



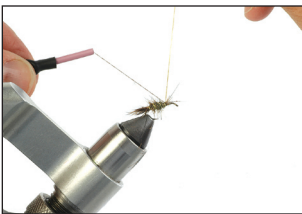
Now "spin" a thin coating of the fluff (dubbing) that we saved when we removed guard hairs for the tail. This will take a bit of practice. You want to have an even coating of dubbing along the length of the thread.



Now wrap the dubbing around the hook, moving forward as you go. Wrap until you are about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way towards the eye of the hook.

7. Finishing the Ribbing

It is now time to add the rib. Take the fine gold wire and wind it in the opposite direction that your thread is going. Wrap 6-8 times, and then use your thread to tie-off the wire. Wrap the thread 3-4 times around the wire and then trim off the excess.



8. Attaching Wing Case

Now cut a piece off of the turkey feather about the same width as the gap of the hook. Place the feather, shiny side up,



on top of the hook with the cut end slightly behind the eye. Wrap the thread forward to slightly behind the eye and then wrap it back to the point where the abdomen dubbing ended.



9. Applying Thorax Dubbing

It is now time to build the thorax. This part will be a bit thicker than the abdomen. Apply dubbing that has some guard hairs mixed into it. Wrap the dubbing around the hook, but make sure you don't crowd the eye. Leave a space about the same size as the eye of the hook so you'll have enough room to finish the fly.



10. Finishing Wing Case

Now fold the turkey feather forward. Secure it with 4-5 wraps of thread and trim the excess.



11. Finishing the Fly

To finish your fly you will want to make several half-hitch knots where all the materials are tied just behind the eye of the hook. You can use a tool call a whip finisher to do this, but you can also use your fingers. Take your left hand and hold the bobbin. Wrap



the thread around your right forefinger making a loose loop. Carefully slide the loop off of your

finger and onto the hook near the eye. Tighten the loop a short distance back from the eye of the hook. Repeat this process at least three times. Cut the thread as close to the fly hook as possible. Take the fingernail polish and put a small amount near the head of the fly where you tied in the materials and tied the half hitch knots. You can do this with the brush from the nail polish or with a toothpick. Use your dubbing needle to pull out a few hairs underneath so they look like legs. Let it sit in the vice for a few minutes to let the nail polish dry. You just tied your first fly!



The gold ribbed hare's ear can be used to catch trout, sunfish, and many other species of fish. Go wet your line and see what you catch!

Tying additional gold ribbed hare's ears will improve your skills. Your first one probably won't look like you had hoped, but remember that it is the first time that you've ever tied one and each one you do will be a little better.