

## Tying Bench Layne (Smitty) Smith: The Carrot Nymph



It doesn't look like much, but this is a pattern that will take fish under a wide variety of conditions. As with so many patterns, the secret is to fish it with confidence. To that end this is a pattern that begs for a bit of personalization.

### MATERIALS:

Hook: Mustad 3906b or similar 1XL heavy wire wet fly or nymph hook.

Thread: Black or orange Flatwaxed Nylon (or your favorite thread).

Body: Dubbed orange rabbit, squirrel or synthetic or a

mix of the three.

Hackle: Hungarian partridge, yellow pheasant rump, natural game hackle, hen hackle or anything else that's soft and webby.

Head: Black or orange thread head coated with UV Resin or a bead head (black, brass or fluorescent orange), or a cone head (same choices), or peacock herl or even no head at all ... the choice is yours.

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

**Note:** I am demonstrating this tying procedure with a thread head coated with UV Resin ... if you choose to do a bead or cone head then you would want to slide either of those onto your hook and solidify its position with a few thread wraps tucked up inside the cavity of the bead or cone and add a drop or two of head cement or UV Resin and cure to keep it in place.

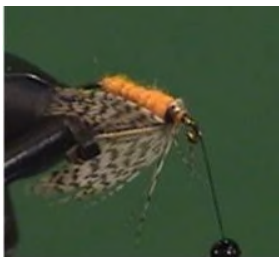
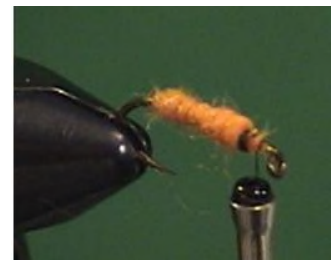
A lot of materials will work for the body of the fly. I use anything from an orange synthetic yarn (I Love This Yarn brand in color #200) to stock orange dubbing, fluorescent dubbing such as Senyo's Laser Dub, and complex custom blends featuring several materials. At the end of the day the only thing that matters is a golden, natural carrot orange applied in a tidy, tapered tubular shape.

**Step 1:** Pick the dubbing of your choice and thin it out to attach to hook.

**Step 2:** Dub your thread starting with a thin amount then building it up.

**Step 3:** Form a neatly tapered body that doesn't crowd the hook eye.

**Step 4:** Select a well-marked hackle feather. I like partridge, but pheasant, hen hackle, mallard breast or dyed wood duck all work well.



**Step 5:** As with any soft hackle, you need to leave room for the hackle barbs to move and swim. Sparse is a good guideline, but I'll often tie a carp fly slightly fuller than I would an equivalently sized bluegill fly.

**Step 6:** One or two wraps is all it will take. Don't make this pattern any more complicated that absolutely necessary. If you take more than 10 minutes to tie one, you're working too hard.

*Smitty*