



## “THE BLACK GNAT”

February 2011 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed  
By *Jim Berdan*

### MATERIALS

**HOOK:** Dry fly hook size 10-20 (TMC 100 SP-BL)

**THREAD:** Black - Danville's Flymaster 6/0 Waxed

**TAIL:** Six Pheasant Tail Fibers dyed black

**ABDOMEN:** Black tying thread - bobbin spun counter-clockwise to flatten

**RIB:** Black tying thread - bobbin spun clockwise to tighten the twist

**WING:** Natural gray duck quill sections tied upright and divided

**THORAX:** Ice Dub - Peacock Black

**HACKLE:** Black

This pattern is from Hogan Brown, a Northern California guide and sometimes high school teacher (or perhaps that should be vice versa). Brown's patterns are simple, effective, and often have really silly names, and this fly is no exception. Tried and tested on Central Valley rivers such as the Lower Sacramento and the Lower Yuba, the Red Headed Step Child in smaller sizes can be a very productive pattern that everyone should have in their fly box.

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

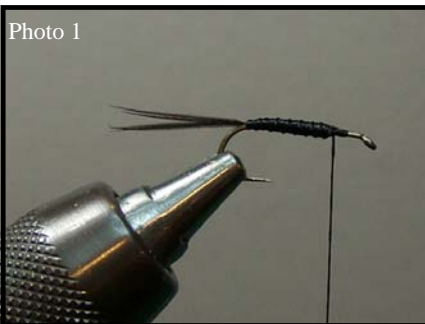


Photo 1

**(PHOTO 1)** Pinch the barb. Start your thread behind the eye and lay down a solid thread base. Leave the thread just above the pinched barb. Select six black pheasant tail fibers and tie them in on top of the shank. Length of the tail should be as long as the hook shank. Tie down the butts to form an underbody and trim. Flatten the thread by spinning the bobbin counter-clockwise and form a tapered body. With the thread back at the tie-in point of the tail, spin the bobbin clockwise to tighten the twist and form the rib. Wrap forward to form a segmented body.



Photo 2

**(PHOTO 2)** Tie in the duck quill wing, and stand it upright and divide. Note: the length of the wing should be equal to the length of the hook shank.



## "THE BLACK GNAT"

Tied and photographed  
By *Jim Berdan*

### February 2011 Fly of the Month

**(PHOTO 3)** Tie in the hackle just behind the wing. Dub the thorax with the peacock black Ice Dub.



**(PHOTO 4)** Palmer the hackle forward, two wraps behind the wing and two wraps in front of the wing and tie off. Form the head with the tying thread, whip finish and apply head cement. You are done.



## "THE BLACK GNAT"

By *Jim Berdan*