

The Coves Pheasant Tail

By Derek Young

This Fly was created by Arthur Cove (hence the name), one of Britain's leading still-water angler's and a renowned Midlands nymph fisherman, to represent a wide range of sub-aquatic pupa.



I prefer to tie mine on a curved B110 Kamasan grub hook in the style of Davie McPhail (see his video on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Q8Eo76RHU&sns=em>).

I fish it on a long leader with a slow figure of 8 retrieve, but it can be used on the point in a team or even in smaller sizes on the droppers).

Dressing

Hook	Down eye short shank wide gape hook, Size 8 to 14. (Kamasan B130)	Rib	Copper wire. (Silver or Gold are variations).
Thread	Black or Brown. (I like a Flouresent red Thread).	Thorax	Rabbit under fur mixed with a few guard hairs. (Some use Hare's fur or even Seal's Fur). <i>Note: A Pronounced, small round ball thorax.</i>
Tail	None		
Body	Cock pheasant tail fibres (extended around the bend).	Wing case	Cock pheasant tail fibre's.



Step 1

Set hook in vice (ping it) and catch on tying thread...



Step 2

...removing waste tag of thread, move thread to bottom of thorax area (approx one third).



Step 3
Catch in the copper wire.



Step 4
Bind down the wire using touching turns of thread, down hook shank, around bend.



Step 5
Catch in 5-6 pheasant tail fibres...



Step 6
...and pull them to their tips.



Step 7
Return tying thread two thirds up hook shank to thorax area.



Step 8

Wind the pheasant tail fibres, anti-clockwise, up the hook shank, opposite way to thread and secure.



Step 9

Wind the copper wire rib (in the opposite direction to the pheasant tail fibres) in open turns up the hook shank and secure.



Step 10

Remove the excess wire by agitating, wiggling wire, and remove excess pheasant tail fibres.



Step 11

Take another large bunch(10-12) of pheasant tail fibres...



Step 12

...and trim tag ends.



Step 13

Catch them in on top of hook shank,using pinch and loop technique, secure and bind them down.



Step 14

Dub the rabbit fur (or hares fur) onto tying thread...



Step 15

...and create thorax.(a pronounced round ball).



Step 16

Pull the pheasant tail fibres OVER thorax to create the wing case and secure.



Step 17

Remove waste pheasant tail fibres and create head with tying thread.



Step 18
Whip finish...



Step 19
...and remove tying thread, varnish wraps on head.



The Finished Fly
Use velcro brush or dubbing needle to “pick out” thorax to imitate legs. (The finished fly).



The Other Side



Davie McPhails Version



Front view of Davie's version



Side view