

Lesson 4

WOOLY BUGGER



Hook: Tiemco TMC 300 size

4-14

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: Olive marabou

Rib: Copper or gold wire

Hackle: Saddle or schlappen
olive

Body: Chenille olive

OPTIONS

This fly can be tied in several colors: black, green, purple, brown and white are the most common. You can also mix colors. Dubbing and spun deer hair can be used for the body.

GOALS

1. Learning to work with chenille.
2. Learning to make a palmered hackle.
3. Working with marabou.

This fly's colorful name and the gnarly way it looks can be deceiving. This is a big fish fly, perhaps the very best big fish fly in use currently. The Woolly Buggy has a lively marabou feather tail that "breathes" in the water and looks lively to hungry trout. It is the only streamer fly we feature in this book. A streamer fly can imitate bait fish, leaches, perhaps even worms.

A Pennsylvania fly tier, Jim Blessing tied the first "Buggers" to imitate crayfish when fishing for small mouth bass in the streams near his home. This fly caught on quickly and is a mandatory stream and lake fly.

By adding the marabou tail and learning to "palmer hackle" a saddle feather from a chicken over the length of the body, you build on the previous skills you've learned.

The Woolly Buggy is a very versatile fly to fish. You can cast it upstream and fish it like a nymph, or cast across a stream and let it drift with the current. A great way to fish streamer flies is to cast across stream, let the current carry it down and across and make stripping retrieves, pulling 6-24" in your fly line, imparting subtle and deliberate action to the fly. The hackle will twitch back over the body and the tail will flare and wiggle supply. This drives fish wild and brings surprising hook ups and many big fish!



1. Debarb the hook and make a thread base. Tie in the tail at the bend of the hook. The tail should be as long as the shank of the hook. If you make it too long you can simply break it off at the right length. Advance the thread, tying down loose ends and making an even body. Trim any excess ends.



2. Tie in the rib winding the thread toward the bend. At the bend, tie in the hackle by the tip with the curve of the feather down.



3. Pull off a little bit of the end of the chenille to expose the core. Tie in the chenille by the core.



4. Advance the thread forward to one eye diameter from the eye of the hook. Wrap the chenille each wrap in front of the next until you reach the thread. Tie off and trim.



5. Palmer hackle forward as you would a rib, with nice evenly spaced wraps. At the thread add one or two turns for a collar. Tie off and trim.



6. Back-wrap the ribbing through the hackle fibers to the head of the fly. Tie off and trim. Form a small head. Whip finish.