

OSPREY FLY BOX

WOOLLY BUGGER

by Adrian Sparham

According to Wikipedia, the original Woolly Buzzer pattern was believed to have been created in the 1960's to resemble a "hellgrammite" or Dobsonfly nymph. Wikipedia says its precise origin is unknown, but is an evolution of the Woolly Worm, which itself is a variation ... intentional or not ... of the British palmer fly, which dates back to Izaak Walton in the 17th Century.

Depending on the material used, and how it is fished, it can be assumed to resemble a large nymph, baitfish, leech, downing terrestrial insect, clamworm, crayfish, shrimp or crab.

The Woolly Buzzer is constructed with a marabou tail (*with or without some sort of flashy material in the tail*), a chenille or fur body, and a hackle palmered from the tail to the head of the fly. Tying the pattern with a rib helps protect the palmered hackle. The underbody may be weighted with lead wire. Popular colours are olive, brown and black for freshwater use. Brighter colours and combinations of colours are especially popular for steelhead, salmon and saltwater use.



REASONS WHY I CHOSE IT AS MY FAVORITE FLY: Simple. It's the first fly I learned to tie and it's the first fly I caught a fish on. I have tried tying them in a variety of colours, but for me, black has been the most effective, so I guess the fish probably think it's a leech. The example I provided to Peter was a white version, which I think looks real pretty, but I must admit, it seems to appeal more to me than the fish, as they don't seem very interested in taking it.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 9672 or equivalent - 3X Long
- Weight:** Lead wire or bead head.
- Thread:** Colour to match body.
- Tail:** Marabou (black, olive, brown, etc)
- Body:** Medium Chenille (black, olive, brown, etc)
- Hackle:** Hen Hackle (to match body)
- Rib:** Copper Wire

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Slide bead on debarbed hook (optional)



Lay down the thread base.

Wrap the shank of the hook with lead wire (optional)

Tie the marabou tail on. Then, using two hands, rip the marabou to length.

Add in order ... the copper wire, the hackle by the tip, then the chenille.

Wrap the chenille forward to the head. Tie off and clip.

Palmer the hackle, evenly spaced, forward to the head. Tie off and clip.

Counter wind the copper wire forward to the head. Tie off and clip.

Whip finish and add head cement.

The Finished Fly



Woolly Buzzer