

GLORIFIED WOOLY BUGGER



By Bob Bates

“Big Fish” was the answer to my question “What do you catch with this fly?” Dorothy Zinky from Los Altos, CA was tying this pattern at the 3rd Fly Tying Expo of the Boise Valley Fly Fishers in Boise, ID, March 2007. The red eyes are probably what attracted my attention just as it does bass and trout. It is not a complicated pattern to tie, and with the potential of catching Big Fish it is worth giving it a try.

Dorothy usually fishes it in moving waters, rivers and streams, using a floating line and a downstream quartering cast. She called it a Berry Beck style. Naturally the cast and even the line are varied a little depending on stream flow and desired depth. Strip it back after the swing. She didn't say so but I sometimes let the fly hang below me for a little while before stripping. The main thing is to try different retrieves to hook those big fish. Water temperature and other factors influence the fish and their willingness to strike

For lake fishing vary the retrieve, location and depth to get the fish to strike. Once fish start hitting keep with that technique until they stop. Also explore structures where fish might hang out.

Materials List:

Hook: Dai-Riki 730, No. 8

Thread: Black, 6/0

Eyes: Nickel dumbbell with red or yellow eyes.

Flash: Krystal Flash, peacock

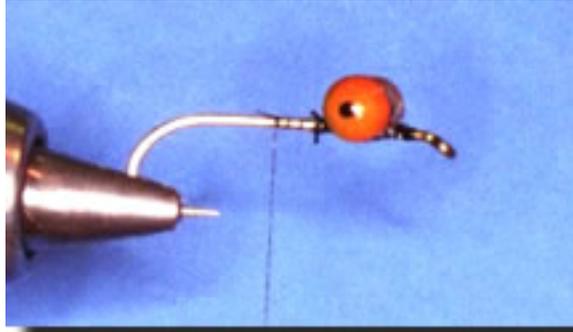
Tail: Marabou, black

Body/Hackle: 3 to 5 black hen hackles and one red dyed grizzly hen hackle

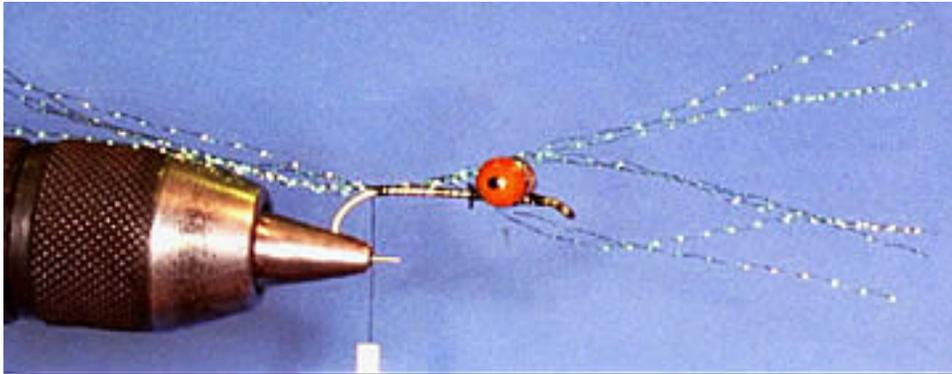
Legs: Nymph Sili Leg

Head: Peacock herl

Tying steps:



1. Several hooks with the red dumbbells can be assembled ahead of time. Some tying instructions will tell you to hold the eyes across the shank and secure them with a figure eight thread wind. For me it is easier to hold the eyes parallel to the hook, put on a few thread winds, twist the eyes into position and then do the figure eight wind. Set the eyes with Crazy Glue.



2. Put thread on the hook at the bend. Take two strands of Krystal Flash and fold them in half twice. Tie the middle of the bunch of Krystal Flash onto the hook at the bend.



3. Select a bunch of marabou that is about twice as long as the hook and secure it at the bend. Pull back the strands of Krystal Flash pointing forward one at a time, distribute them around the marabou and secure. Wind thread to hold them in position. Leave thread hanging at front of marabou tail.



4. One at a time wrap hen hackles to build a thorax. The last hackle should end very close to the eyes.



5. Attach the red hen hackle between the last black hackle and the eyes. Take two wraps only, secure and trim.



6. Tie legs on in front of eyes, pull them back and secure them behind the eyes so two legs are on each side of the thorax. Attach a strand of peacock herl in front of eyes.



7. Put the herl in a thread loop, and twist them together. Wrap between the eyes, top and bottom, around behind and secure in front of eyes. Trim excess peacock herl.. Whip finish between the peacock herl and the hook eye.

Closing comments: Dorothy considers this pattern just another form of Woolly Bugger. Certainly there are hundreds if not thousands of different Woolly Buggers, and they all catch fish, even sometimes big fish. However, your chances might be better if you tie a few Glorified Woolly Buggers and head for your favorite big fish waters.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org