

Fly Tying Bench — The Woolly Bugger *by Paul Sequira*

The Woolly Bugger is one of the most versatile and effective flies ever developed. It can be tied in many colors and various materials. It is an effective fly in both fresh and saltwater. I believe it was originally designed to imitate the Dobson Fly larva it is also a very good imitation of a leech. I think most importantly, it gives an appearance of life and an easy prey for any predatory fish. I will describe the traditional fresh water pattern here in my favorite color pattern; all black is another good choice.



Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 9672 size 6 or any 3 or 4 XL hook (size 8 for bream or size 4 for bass)
- **Thread:** Black 3/0
- **Tail:** Black Marabou 1½ to 2 times the length of the hook
- **Body:** Olive medium chenille
- **Weight:** 10 to 12 wraps of lead wire
- **Hackle:** Black saddle hackle palmered on body and another for a collar.

Tying Procedure:

1. As usual, pinch down the barb and secure in the vise in the normal fashion. Start the thread with a jam knot about ¼ inch behind the hook eye.

2. Take 10 or 12 wraps of fine or medium (depending upon how fast you want it to sink) around the hook shank immediately behind the end of your tie-in point. Now wrap the thread through the wire wraps towards the bend and then forward again. You may do this several times to secure the wraps. The thread should be positioned at the back end of the wire wraps. I also apply a coat of head cement to the wire at this point.

3. Select a black blood marabou feather and lay it on top of the hook butting up against the end of the wire wraps. The marabou tail should be 1½ to 2 times the length of the hook. Secure the marabou with several tight wraps.

4. Select a black saddle hackle with fairly long and soft fibers. Tie the hackle in by the tip at the bend of the hook shank. I prefer to tie it in under the hook shank.

5. Tie in a piece of olive medium size chenille where you tied in the hackle under the hook shank. Wrap the chenille up the hook towards the hook eye and tie off with several thread wraps about ¼ in behind the eye. Cut and discard the excess.

6. Grasp the hackle by the butt with your hackle pliers and palmer it forward with evenly spaced wraps. Tie off as with the chenille.

7. Take a 2nd black saddle hackle and strip away the soft web at the base of the feather. Tie the hackle in at the point where the hackle fibers start and trim away the butt. Take 3 or 4 wraps of hackle to form a collar. Tie the hackle off, cut away and discard the excess.

8. Wrap a nice neat bullet shaped head and give it several coats of head cement.



Norm Sande tying a Woolly Bugger at the Tie-A-Thon
Photo Sandy Griffin