

Tying Bench — The Zug Bug by Paul Sequira

Pennsylvania fly fisherman Cliff Zug designed the Zug Bug sometime back in the 1940s and it became very popular in the northeast. It soon became just as popular in the West Yellowstone area. Today, along with other peacock herl bodied flies such as the Prince Nymph, it continues to be one of the top ten flies of many fly fishermen.

Materials:

- Hook - Mustad 3906B or any standard nymph hook
- Thread - Black 6/0 pre-waxed
- Weight:- ten wraps of .011 lead-free wire (may also be tied with a gold bead head)
- Tail: - 4 strands of peacock sword flued fibers
- Ribbing: - Oval silver tinsel
- Body: - 4 strands of peacock herl twisted with tying thread
- Hackle - brown hen neck hackle
- Wing case: - Lemon wood duck, clipped short



Zug Bug—file photo

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEZpAMp6LYU

For a video demo of the tying steps for the Zug Bug

Tying Instructions:

- Mash down the point and secure hook in vise in normal fashion.
- Attach thread to the hook with a jam knot approximately 1/8" behind the hook eye, spiral thread towards the rear of the hook and back up to about 1/4 of the way to the hook eye.
- Select a piece of lead-free .011 dia. wire (similar sized copper wire may be used for lighter weight) and take about 10 turns of wire around the hook shank. Break off and discard the excess wire.
- Wrap the tying thread through the wire wraps back and forth the length of the wire wraps. Build a ramp of thread at the rear of the wire wraps to help create a tapered body. Spiral the tying thread down to the beginning of the hook bend.
- Select 4 peacock sword flued fibers, match the ends evenly and place them on top of the hook shank. Take several tight wraps of thread to bind them down to the hook shank. The tails should be short, about the length of the width of the hook gap. Spiral wrap the remaining fibers to where you started the thread ramp. Discard the excess fibers.
- Select a 6 " piece of oval silver tinsel and secure it to the side of the hook shank and let the excess extend out over the head of your vise.
- Select 4 long peacock herled fibers, match the tips evenly and place against the side of the hook shank and secure them to the hook with several tight wraps of thread binding down the ends and with the excess extending out over the head of the vise. Return the thread to the tie-in point of the peacock herl.
- Strip off about 6 " of thread, place your left index finger on the bottom of the extended thread and run the thread back up to the hook shank, thereby forming a loop of thread. Take several wraps of thread around the hook and spiral the thread back up to the hook eye.
- Now, take the peacock herl extending over the head of your vise and bring it down to the bottom of your thread loop. Grab the entire bunch with your hackle pliers and take several twists of the entire bunch, creating a rope of the herl and the thread. This will create a much stronger body since peacock herl is a little fragile.
- Wrap the herl/thread rope around the hook shank towards the eye of the hook and tie it off leaving room to tie in a hackle and wing case. Spiral wrap the silver tinsel towards the head - about 5 evenly spaced wraps, and tie off at the front.
- Select a brown hen neck feather, hold it by the tip and stroke the remaining fibers down on both sides of the tip. Place the tip against the side of the hook shank and take several tight wraps of thread securing the feather to the hook. Cut away the excess tip. Take 3 turns of the hackle around the hook shank, stroking the fibers towards the rear of the hook as you turn. Take several tight wraps of thread to secure the hackle to the hook. Cut away and discard the excess feather.
- Select a lemon wood duck feather and strip away any flue and a few fibers at the base of the feather. Place the feather stem on top of the fly on top of the hen hackle wraps and take several tight turns, securing it to the hook. Cut away and discard the hackle stem.
- Take your scissors and cut away most of the feather, approximately half way back on the fly.. Wrap a nice neat bullet shaped head and secure with a whip finish. A few drops of head cement finishes the fly.