

Complex Twist Bugger

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



It is that time of year when I look outside my fly-tying studio and see the first signs of Winter, finally. It is a great time to sit down and tie flies to fill out those boxes for the upcoming season. In that spirit, I have been busy. For this month's column, I decided to feature the Complex Twist Bugger. I have fished this pattern for a couple years and know it works.

The profile of this pattern moves a lot of water when fished. And I know some of those large Brown Trout in East Lake, Paulina and Wickiup are impressed with this fly. It imitates chubs on several of our area lakes, or, tied in a smaller size, large dragonfly nymphs that large brown trout feast upon, or perhaps immature smallmouth bass in Lake Billy Chinook that capture the attention of those big bull trout.

This pattern is not your usual wooly bugger. I tie it with a conehead and numerous wraps of lead-free wire to get the fly to sink quickly. It offers a two-toned marabou tail, with fiery brown topped with olive marabou and framed with some

Krystal Flash. The body is tied with three materials: medium olive chenille, UV Polar Flash in dark olive, and a grizzly dyed olive Schlappen feather. Schlappen is a feather of the saddle of a rooster that is not quite saddle hackle, and not quite tail, but is something in between. It features long webby fibers that are perfect for wooly buggers, or complex twist buggers. These three materials are tied on together and then wound to create the complex twist. I take a dubbing brush to brush out everything to create the buggy profile of this pattern. Lastly, it features a collar of a Whiting Coq De Leon cape hen feather in speckled brown. This collar gives the fly character and substance.

Try tying this pattern on your vice and fish it during the upcoming season on your favorite Central Oregon Stillwater or river. I think you will like it. One of the cool things about this fly, is experimenting and adapting the materials and colors to invent your own version of the Complex Twist Bugger.

Complex Twist Bugger Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718, size 8-10, or Daiichi 1710, size 6-8

Thread: Ultra 210 Denier in Black or Olive

Weight: 3/16's Gold Conehead and 10 wraps 0.25 Lead Wire

Tail: Marabou in Fiery Brown topped by Medium Olive

Flash: 5-6 Strand Olive Krystal Flash

Body: Medium Olive Chenille, UV Polar Flash – Dark Olive and Whiting Grizzly Dyed Olive Schlappen tied in a complex twist

Collar: Whiting Coq de Leon Hen Cape in Speckled Brown or Natural Pardo

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL:
<https://youtu.be/9RHX0TxMf-k>.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it throughout the season as an alternative to your usual wooly bugger pattern. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Complex Twist Bugger fly pattern, please do not hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.