

FISH SKULL SKULPIN BUNNY



Recipe

Hook.....Streamer, 4xl, size 2 - 6

Weight.....Fish Skull Skulpin Helmet, small, brown or olive

Eyes.....Gold 3D, 3 mm

Thread.....Brown or olive, 6/0

Tail and back.....Rabbit zonker, straight cut, 1/8", olive or brown barred

Body and fins.....Rabbit zonker, cross cut, 1/8", olive or brown

As a foreword, it is very important that you leave a clear “gap” between your materials and the hook eye. This gap provides space for the helmet to be fitted from the front of the hook over the materials and secured in place.

1. Place the hook in the vise with the hook point **up**. Start the thread about 1/4" behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back to under the hook barb. At this back end point make 6-10 wraps to form a thread ball. *(This ball will help secure the rabbit strip in place.)*
2. Take a 2"- 3" piece of straight rabbit strip and trim one end to a small point to help create a tapered tail at the back of the fly. With the skin toward you, hold the strip against the hook shank with the cut **flat end slightly in front of the thread tie-in point** and place a **small dot in the center of the strip on the skin at the point where it meets the hook bend**. *(This should be somewhere around the center of the strip.)*
3. Now push the hook point through the dot you made on the skin, then take the hook out of the vise and reposition the strip so that it lies straight on the hook shank with the fur going toward the hook point and the pointed end of the skin extending back past the hook bend.
4. Now put the hook back in the vice, hook point up, and brush the hair back so that it is evenly distributed on either side of the hook bend.
5. At the point where you formed the thread ball, brush back the fur on the strip to expose bare skin. Hold the strip in place (straight and in line with the hook shank) tight against the ball and tie it down over the bare skin with 5-6 thread wraps (try to keep the thread wraps on top of one another as much as possible). The sides of the strip should fold down evenly on both sides of the hook shank.

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6. Now lift the rabbit strip and do at least 10 tight thread wraps directly under the strip against the skin, then wrap the thread forward to the middle of the hook shank, then lay the skin down on top of the hook shank and brush the hair back to cover the back tie-in point of the skin.
7. Cut a 4"- 5" piece of crosscut rabbit strip and trim one end to a small point. Measure the strip so that the tips of the fur extend slightly past the back of the hook bend. Tie the strip in by its point, skin side toward you, at the middle of the hook shank (or slightly farther back if necessitated by the fur measurement). Once the strip is tied-in, wrap the thread forward to the initial thread tie-in point.
8. Lift the straight skin strip back out of the way and apply a very light coating of super glue to the hook shank from the tie-in point of the crosscut strip forward to where you left the thread.
9. Grasp the crosscut strip and wrap it forward, using tight side-by-side wraps, to **one** wrap past where you left the thread and tie it off. (*Be sure to stroke the fur back after each wrap to avoid binding down the fur.*) Depending on how thick the rabbit strip is, you should reach the thread tie-in point in 3-5 wraps. Remove any excess crosscut strip.
10. Brush the crosscut fur back so that it is straight and evenly distributed on all sides of the hook shank, then, using your fingers, evenly separate the cross cut fur on top (in this case, the top is the side toward the hook point.) of the hook shank.
11. Now grasp the straight rabbit strip and pull it **firmly** over the top of the divided crosscut fur (similarly to making a wing case on a nymph) and tie it down tightly in front of the crosscut fur. Remove any excess straight strip, **wrap a small thread head**, and cut the thread. (**The thread head is important as it is the base for the helmet.**) (You should still have about 1/4" of clear space behind the hook eye - if not, you may have trouble mounting the skull helmet.) Brush all the fur back toward the hook bend.

Note: The basic tail and body of the fly is now complete. It consists of a simple, straight cut rabbit strip running from the front to the back of the fly that representing the back and tail of a sculpin. It also includes a single cross cut rabbit strip wrapped around the hook shank to form the underbody and front fins of a sculpin.

12. Now take a Sculpin Helmet and slip it on the hook to see if it fits properly. (The top of the helmet should be toward the hook point.) If your spacing is correct, then the helmet will fit snugly against the front of the fur and the thread head, leaving a very small gap between the front of the helmet and the eye of the hook.
13. If the fit is okay, remove the helmet and apply a coating of super glue to the top, sides, and bottom of the **thread head**, then push the helmet into position again. Make any final adjustments then push the helmet against the thread head until the glue sets.
14. Reattach the thread in front of the helmet and form a small thread dam to secure the helmet in place. Do a whip finish and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the thread dam.
15. Apply a small drop of super glue in the middle of each helmet eye socket and stick on the 3D eyes that came with the helmet.