

SUGAR CREEK CRAYFISH



Recipe

Hook.....Wet/Nymph 6

Thread.....Black, Brown, or Olive 6/0

Eyes.....Lead dumbbell, Med

Antenna....Round rubber legs, Black or Brown

Mouth.....Antron, Amber

Head.....Med chenille, tan

Claws.....Pigskin or suitable substitute

Body.....Crosscut Rabbit Zonker Strip, Brown, Olive. Or Tan

Belly.....Straight Rabbit Zonker Strip, White

Head.....Thread

1. Prepare the hook by crushing the barb (if desired) and then take a pair of pliers and bend the front $\frac{1}{4}$ of the hook shank **down** 15-20 degrees toward the hook point. Now mount the hood in the vise.
2. Tie-in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap back to the bend you put in the hook forming a good thread base. Take the dumbbell eyes and tie them in on top of the hook shank using figure eight wraps right in front of the bend that you made in the hook. **(If desired, you can apply superglue to the wraps securing the eyes.)** Wrap the thread back to hook bend.
3. Take a 6" piece of rubber leg, fold it in half, lay the folded end on top of the hook shank at the hook bend and tie it in with several tight thread wraps. **(The loose ends of the rubber legs should project back over the hook bend to serve as antennae.)**
4. Now take a 2" clump of antron, comb it out straight, and then tie-in one end of the clump right on top of the antennae. The other end of the clump should project out over the hook bend 1" **(trim to length if necessary)** to simulate mouth parts.
5. Next, take a 3-4" piece of chenille, strip one end down to the core and tie the stripped end in at the same point as you tied-in the antron. Now make 3-5 wraps to form a small ball and tie it off. Trim the excess chenille. **(The primary purpose of this chenille ball is to separate the claws, which is our next step)**

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6. Cut two claws (your choice of style) about 2" – 3" long out of the pigskin. Tie them in one at a time directly behind the chenille ball so that they extend approximately 2" back over the hook bend. Trim any excess butt.
7. Now take a 6" piece of **crosscut rabbit zonker strip**, trim one end to a point, and tie the strip in by the point right behind the claws. **(You will notice that the rabbit fur on the strip tends to lay over on one side. Ensure that you tie the strip in so that the fur leans toward the hook bend and the claws.)**
8. Wrap the strip forward in tight, slightly overlapping turns to just behind the dumbbell eyes and tie it off. Do not trim off the excess. **(Stroke the hair back toward the hook bend with each wrap to avoid wrapping down the fur.)**
9. Now cut a piece of white standard straight cut zonker strip slightly longer than the hook shank. Lay the front edge of the strip right behind the hook eye, with the remainder of the strip laid over the top of the dumbbell eyes. Tie it in behind the dumbbell eyes at the same spot that you tied off the crosscut rabbit strip. **(Be sure the separate the fur and make the tie down wraps on the bare skin.)** Lift the front of the white strip then grasp the remainder of the crosscut strip and make 2-3 wraps in front of the dumbbell eyes. Tie off the crosscut strip behind the hook eye, trim off the excess strip and build a thread head. Stroke the fur from the wraps in front of the dumbbell eyes back under the eyes. Pull the front of the white strip forward over the eyes and tie it down behind the hook eye. Trim off the excess strip and form a neat thread head.
10. Whip finish and cut off the thread. **(It is suggested that you do a double whip finish for durability.)** Apply head cement.

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